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PICTURE OF THE DAY

New Home



Off to a new "home" mother takes her children and all her goods and chattels in one pedicab. A typical scene on Hong Kong streets. (China Mail photo)

Big Canton Harbour Project

Nanking, Mar. 12.
A gigantic harbour capable of accommodating 30,000-ton vessels is to be built at the mouth of the Pearl River, which runs through Canton, according to the Ministry of Communications sources in Nanking last night.

It is estimated that the harbour will take two years to construct and when completed will contain 800 metres of wharfage accommodation. The scheme is part of Dr. T. V. Soong's reconstruction programme for Kwangtung and more than US\$60,000,000 of the American aid loan have been set aside for the work.

Preliminary work on the harbour is expected to replace Hong Kong and Macao as the chief ports of the South China trade.—Reuter-AAP.

Shanghai, Mar. 12.

A Chinese report from Hong Kong claimed that Kwangtung Governor T. V. Soong had appointed Takeki Horiuchi, former Japanese Consul-General in Shanghai, as adviser to the Government, operated Kwangtung Industrial Company.

The report, which could not be confirmed here, failed to specify what phase of the Industrial Co. varied activities Horiuchi would advise. The report said that Horiuchi, who opposed the Japanese aggression while holding key positions in the Japanese consular service in China, is "Dr. Soong's close friend".

It was believed that Dr. Soong hired Horiuchi in connection with Japanese trade.

Horiuchi is the first Japanese since the end of the war to be given a high post in the Chinese Government.—United Press.

DOWNING STREET
THREAT

London, Mar. 12.
An anonymous man calling from a nearby booth told the Shepherd's Bush Telephone Exchange today that No. 10 Downing Street would be blown up tonight.—United Press.

ON OTHER PAGES

WESTERN UNION AGREEMENT 50-Year Military And Economic Pact

Protection Against Red Infiltration

Brussels, Mar. 12.
A 50-year Western European pact binding Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg in close economic and military relationship was achieved here today. In ten sessions and after nine days' work the delegates of the five powers elaborated the accord which they hope will give their countries the necessary instrument to stem the tide of Communism.

It is their aim to organise Western Europe on the same basis that Russia organised the nations of Eastern Europe.

Although no official confirmation could be obtained it is believed the treaty contained a clause giving the five nations protection against "political infiltration".

Reliable sources said the mutual aid clause called for automatic military assistance in the event of aggression while any disputes would be settled by appeal to the International High Court of Justice at The Hague.

The Colonies

The overseas possessions of Britain, France, Belgium and Holland will be linked in the Western European bloc through economic clauses, it was learned.

Implementation of the treaty will be carried out by a Joint Permanent Consultative Committee which might have its seat in London.

The phrasing of the mutual defence clause is not known but according to reliable sources it had been left rather vague in order to enable the insertion later of specific clauses which would call for standardisation of armaments and training and reciprocal granting of facilities for air and sea bases in Britain and the Continent.

Step Further

In London, the Foreign Office spokesman said it is expected the new five-power alliance would be signed in Brussels on Wednesday.

He said Mr. Bevin (British Foreign Minister) who will address the opening session of the Marshall Plan nations conference in Paris on Monday will go to Brussels on Tuesday night.

The agreement lent added significance to Mr. Bevin's Paris speech and a high Government source said he would "carry the economic side of the Western alliance a step further" when he addresses the representatives of the 16 nations on Monday.

Diplomatic observers here said Britain and France will now press for extension of the economic aspects of the Western

alliance to other powers bordering the new Anglo-French-Belgian union.

U.S. Guarantee?

Official quarters, however, indicated Whitehall will "go slow" in pressing other powers to join the military agreements of the Brussels pact in view of the touchy internal political situations, particularly in Italy.

British officials still insist that no Washington-London exchanges have yet taken place on the possibility of an American military guarantee for the Western European Union. However, they conceded it "had been given some thought" following Washington press despatches which indicated strong American sentiment in favour of such a proposal.—United Press.

Hong Kong Claim On China

The Hong Kong Government is claiming \$2,500,000 from the Chinese Government in respect of damage caused to buildings in Kowloon Tong by Chinese troops awaiting transportation to North China in 1945-46.

The "China Mail" learned this flight will not be carrying any fore-paying passengers, but will be in the nature of a survey flight, carrying various government officials and press.

Macao Airtransport, as from Friday, March 10, will operate frequent flights to Macao every week-end, increasing to daily flights at a later date.

C.P.A. FLIGHT TO MACAO

Cathay Pacific Airways' Flying Boat, VR-HDT, under charter to Macao Airtransport Co., Ltd., will make an inaugural flight from Hong Kong to Macao and return on Sunday, March 14. This flight will not be carrying any fore-paying passengers, but will be in the nature of a survey flight, carrying various government officials and press.

Comparison Would Be Fatal To Reds

London, Mar. 12.
Major Christopher Mayhew, Member of Parliament and British delegate to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, told a press conference today that the Communism would collapse tomorrow "if the full facts are known by European workers on the economic and social conditions in the Soviet Union."

Continuing, Mayhew said: "The Soviet delegates, it is true, produced 83 figures of Russian economic conditions but they were almost all percentages without basic figures attached to them."

"The Russians always publish percentages only and never the actual figures by which a fair comparison could be made."

"However, the Russians are under a strong moral obligation to supply statistics comparable to the mass of actual material published by the democratic countries."

"Any criticism of the Russian position is in keeping with conditions in Soviet Russia."

The Russians contributed no statistics to the World Economic Survey by the United Nations.

BIG CARGO OF BRISTLES FOR U.K.

Shanghai, Mar. 12.
The British steamer Ben-rhin sailed today with a consignment of 575 cases of bristles—described as the largest single shipment this year of one of China's major export items—for London.

The consignees of the cargo are the Szechuan Animal By-Products Company, which handles over 80 per cent of China's bristles exports.

Excluding today's shipment, China has exported a total of 8,500 piculs of bristles to Britain since the beginning of last year, including 4,000 piculs shipped directly from Tientsin.—Reuter.

Tories Retain Croydon

London, Mar. 12.
The Conservative Party today retained its North Croydon seat in Parliament in yesterday's by-election, according to complete returns.

It gave F.S. Harris (Conservative) a majority of almost 12,000 over his nearest competitor, Harold Nicholson of the Labour Party.

Harris polled 36,000 and Nicholson 24,000.

The third candidate was Air Vice-Marshal Donald Bennett, who sought vindication at the polls after being discharged as chief executive of the Government-owned British South American Airways for talking out of turn.—United Press.

Austrian Treaty Talks Stalled

London, Mar. 11.
Repeated efforts by the British, French and United States Foreign Ministers' deputies on the Austrian treaty, when they met in London today, failed to produce a compromise solution to the question of Soviet claims on oil extraction plants in Austria.

The deputies were considering disposal of former German assets in Austria.

The Soviet deputy, Mr. H. V. Korkotov, declared that a compromise on one particular point alone was impossible as his Government's proposals had to be considered as a whole.

Mr. James Marjoribanks, the United Kingdom delegate, offered to make an advance on Britain's proposal allotting Russia 40 per cent of the oil extraction rights in Austria on condition that the Soviet Government was willing to listen and continue the discussions on that basis.

When it became clear that the Soviet delegation would not accept this proposal, the United

Hope For Peaceful Settlement

Karachi, Mar. 12.
If the Indian Government would "shed its superiority complex and deal with Pakistan on an equal footing," there was hope for a peaceful settlement between the two Dominions, Mr. Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the Governor General of Pakistan, declared today.

He told a press interviewer that his own paramount interests demanded that India and Pakistan should coordinate their efforts in international affairs.

Cooperation in defence was vitally important, he declared. The Constituent Assembly would decide whether Pakistan should remain in the British Commonwealth of Nations.

"We have not only to consider the business side, but also to see whether by remaining in the Commonwealth of Nations, it will be to our advantage as to that of the sister nations of the Commonwealth," he added.—Reuter.

THIRD DAY RUNNING

For the third day on the run, gold was seized on the s.s. "Kwangtung" arriving from Macao yesterday afternoon. In the handling of a woman, Revenue officers found 15 ounces of gold valued at about \$5,000. The woman was arrested.

Yesterday's seizure brought the total of gold found on passengers arriving by the s.s. "Kwangtung" on Wednesday, Thursday and yesterday, to an estimated \$45,500.

JAP. PREMIER'S SPEECH

Shanghai, Mar. 12.
A working party for industrial development of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific met today in the

SURRENDER OF KIRIN REPORTED

Shanghai, Mar. 12.
A blunt unconfirmed press despatch reaching Peiping reported today that the Nationalists have abandoned Kirin, a city of 500,000 population and one of the Nationalists' two northernmost Manchurian outposts, to the Communist forces.

A Chinese Communist broadcast from North Shensi at the same time announced that Communist forces took over Kirin, which is the capital of Kirin Province, on March 9.

The broadcast added that the "people's liberation army" was pursuing the Nationalist forces which abandoned Kirin in the direction of the single remaining Government northernmost bastion, Changchun, 65 miles to the west.

Pro-Government despatches reported that the provincial capital was moved from Kirin to Changchun yesterday.

It is the first time that Government troops have surrendered a Manchurian city without fight, and Kirin has been in Nationalist hands since 1946.—United Press.

Largest Bomb Ever Dropped

Washington, Mar. 12.
The Air Force announced today that the largest bomb ever made—a 42,000-pounder that dwarfs the wartime blockbuster—has been dropped from a B-29 Superfortress in a test at Miramonte, California.

The huge bomb was not loaded. The test was made to study the effect on a plane suddenly lightened by nearly one-third of the gross weight.

The missile is 28 feet 10 inches long and 4 1/2 feet in diameter, which is designed to penetrate deeply in the earth.

The Air Force said that the bomb, while lacking the destructive power of atomic missiles, has certain advantages of its own because it would not release the deadly radioactivity which would prevent ground troops from occupying the area.—United Press.

ECLIPSE OF THE SUN IN HONG KONG

An eclipse of the sun, which will be very nearly total, will be visible from Hong Kong on May 9, weather permitting.

The eclipse will begin at 8.11 a.m. Hong Kong Standard Time, and the greatest phase will be reached at 9.24 a.m. when all but one twentieth of the sun's diameter will be covered by the disc of the moon.

Along a narrow path extending from Slim Sum, South China Sea, to the Aleutian Islands, the eclipse will be annular; at greatest phase the edge of the sun will be visible as a thin ring of light around the dark disc of the moon.

Hong Kong lies not far to the south of this path, consequently the eclipse will appear not as a ring but as a very narrow crescent.

Hong Kong Secrecy Decision Upheld

Ottawa, Mar. 11.
The refusal of Mr. MacKenzie King, the Prime Minister, to publish five despatches relating to the fall of Hong Kong, which the British Government had asked Canada to keep secret, was upheld by the Canadian House of Commons today.

Mr. MacKenzie King, who told the House last week: "It is not going to break faith with the British Government" was backed by 146 votes to 41 when the Progressive Conservative Opposition forced a vote.

The Opposition had moved to have the despatches published before the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, which had been ordered to publish them, had been ordered to publish them.

As the move was defeated, the House of Commons will now consider a motion to publish the despatches.

King's Theatre Film Tragedy



Two men were killed, one of them burnt alive, and the entire stocks of Eagle Lion and Columbia films destroyed by an explosion yesterday morning in a terrace of small rooms on the fifth floor of King's Theatre building.

Trapped in the room in which the explosion, followed by fire, occurred, a 30-year-old employee of the Grand Theatre, Chan Ha, leapt with his hair and clothes on fire from the fifth-floor window into Wyndham Street, his body narrowly missing a rickshaw. He was dead when the ambulance arrived.

The second man, Lai Hing, a 30-year-old film inspector of Eagle Lion, was apparently blinded by the explosion and could not escape. His badly charred body was recovered an hour later.

Another man, 30-year-old Chuen Sun, also a film inspector of Columbia Films Distributors, was more fortunate. He was near the door when the explosion occurred and escaped with head burns and singed hair and eyebrows. He has been detained at the Queen Mary Hospital.

Last night it was still uncertain what had caused the explosion. Theories put forward were spontaneous combustion caused by the warm weather or a lighted cigarette. The latter theory was ruled out by the only survivor of the tragedy in an interview at Queen Mary Hospital.

"Eye-witnesses told the 'China Mail' that immediately after the explosion, sheets of flames of intense heat shot out, more than 20 yards from the windows of the room the interior of which looked like a roaring furnace. The heat was so intense that the windows of Shell House, some 15 yards away, were buckled and smashed. From other windows flames leapt upwards and scorched the

woodwork of a window on the upper floor of the 'South China Morning Post' building. The glass panes were also splintered by the intense heat.

Seven appliances, six from Central Fire Station and one from the Eastern District Station, were on the scene within a few minutes of the fire alarm. With hoses concentrated on the burning films the fire was under control within half an hour. The fire fighters were under the direction of Deputy Chief Officer Brand.

The terrace of rooms stored films of five companies, Eagle Lion, Columbia, International Films, R.K.O. United Artists and Strength Film Distributors. Mr. Fox of International Films rescued all his stock.

(Continued on Page 12)

EUROPEAN DIES
AFTER COLLAPSE
IN CINEMA

While witnessing "Muthy on the Bounty" at the Queen's Theatre at 5.20 p.m. yesterday, a European, unaccountably reported to be Mr. W. J. Andrews, formerly Chief Officer of the s.s. "Kwang Tung," collapsed and was rushed to the Queen Mary Hospital, where he died shortly after admission.

The deceased, who occupied the front row of the back stalls, was accompanied by a Chinese lady who, together with ushers from the Theatre, accompanied deceased to the Hospital.

The Weather

A depression is passing over Japan and South China Sea. It is expected to bring rain and squalls to the region.

Temperature: 75 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Wind: light to moderate, variable.

Humidity: 60 to 70 per cent. Clouds: scattered to broken.

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Tiffin, Afternoon Tea & Dinner.
You are welcome. Prompt Ser-
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in Kowloon. Write Box 372
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Box 375 "China Mail."

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perience and holding a full
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partment of the Chinese Mari-
time Customs. Particulars of
contract may be obtained from
the Office of the Chinese Mari-
time Customs, Marina House,
Queen's Road, Central."

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PUBLIC AUCTION

The Undersigned have re-
ceived instructions from The Supt.
Naval Store Officer, H. M.
Naval Dockyard, Hong Kong to
sell by Public Auction on:

Monday, the 16th. March 1948
commencing at 9.30 a. m.

at their Sales Rooms, Pedder
Building, Basement

A LARGE QUANTITY OF SURPLUS STORES

comprising:

Generators, Combined Dress-
ings, Glass Plates, Mounting,
Charcoal Boxes, Reflectors,
Chemicals, Hardener, Photo-
graphic Apparatus and Acces-
sories, Hospital Beds, Furni-
ture, Gas Cylinders, Radio
Transmitters, Gas Bottles Mis-
cellaneous, Drums, Radio Equip-
ment and Receiver, Tools, Old
Canvas, Linen and Woollen Rags,
Life Lights, Pillows, Mattres-
ses, Brackets, Lines Coll, Best
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Vehicles as per catalogue.

For Catalogues, Inspection
Permits and Conditions of Sale
apply to the Undersigned.

The above Stores and Vehicles
can be inspected between 9.00
a. m. and 12.00 noon and be-
tween 2.00 p. m. and 4.00 p. m.
on the 11th, and 12th, and be-
tween 9.00 a. m. and 12.00 noon
on the 13th. March 1948.

Terms: 50% on Fall of Ham-
mer and Balance by the follow-
ing day.

LAMMERT BROS.,

Auctioneers.

PUBLIC AUCTION

The Undersigned have re-
ceived instructions from The
Superintendent, H. M. Victual-
ling Yard, Kowloon to sell by
Public Auction on

Tuesday, the 16th. March 1948
commencing at 10 a. m.

at their Sales Rooms, Pedder
Building, Basement

A LARGE QUANTITY OF SURPLUS NAVAL CLOTHING

comprising:—

Gloves Anti-flash, Belts
Waist Blue, Stud Protectors,
Nails Tip Heel, Boots Stock-
hold, Brushes Boot Polishing,
Disc Identity Cord for, Laces
Boot Black and Boot Leather,
Polish Boot, Socks White, Stock-
ings Thin Blue, Stockings
White, Drawers Woollen Sub-
marine, Stockings Sea-Boot,
Long Suits Comb Flying Deck,
Vests Winter and Summer, Com-
forters, Duffel Coats, Jerkins
Sheepskin, Drawers Winter
Woollen, Gloves F/ined, Hol-
mets Balclava, Mitts Blue
Woollen, Stockings Sea-Boot,
Short, Stockings Sea-Boot Gift,
Helmets Sheepskin and Anti-
Flash, Bags Kit, Beds Marked,
Canvas Combination Suits, Caps
B. C. Seaman's, Caps B. C.
Sea, Caps B. C. Peak, Caps B.
C. Peak L/V/L, Caps Cooks O.
R. S. Caps White Duck, Collars
Blue Jean, Covers Cap Mar-
Cloves and Lanyards, Lashings,
Nettles, Blue Overall Jackets,
Blue Overall Trousers w/Beckels,
Blue Overall Trousers Bib and
Brace, Blue Overall Combis' on
Suits, Serge Protective Jackets
and Trousers, Brown Overall
Suits, Jumpers Duck, Trousers,
Duck, Vests Cotton Flannel,
Watchcoats, Tunics Drill,
Trousers Drill and Gloves Blue
Worsted.

The above Articles are at
present located at H. M. Vic-
tualising Yard, Kowloon.

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mits apply to the Undersigned.

Inspection of Articles can be
made between 9.00 a. m. and
12 noon and between 2.00 p. m.
and 4.00 p. m. on the 11th, 12th
and 13th. March 1948 and be-
tween 9.00 a. m. and 12.00 noon
on 13th. March 1948.

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age and have had some ex-
perience in clinical pathology,
bacteriology, or routine labora-
tory work. Appointments are
subject to the passing of a
physical examination for fitness
and will be on a probationary
basis for the first two years.
Applications, together with
copies of not more than three
recent testimonials should be
sent to the Hon. Director of
Medical Services, Hong Kong
& Shanghai Bank Building, not
later than 15th April, 1948.

I. NEWTON,
Director of Medical Services.
6th March, 1948.

U.S.R.C.

EASTER DANCE

Will be held on Saturday
27th March.

Tickets now on sale at Club
or from Hon. Secretary. Price
\$5.00.

Statement on February 28th
that tickets for this dance were
sold out was INCORRECT;
however, TICKETS will be
LIMITED.

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Ordinary Yearly General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that
the ordinary yearly general
meeting of shareholders of the
Company will be held at the
head office of the Company, 6
Des Voeux Road Central, Hong-
kong, on Monday the 15th
March, 1948, at 3.00 p.m. for
the purpose of receiving and
considering the reports of the
Directors and of the Auditors
and the Profit and Loss Ac-
count and Balance Sheet for
the year ending 31st December,
1947, and for the appointment
of auditors and declaration of
dividends.

The Register of Shares of
the Company will be closed
from the 6th day of March to
15th March, 1948 (both days
inclusive) during which period
no transfer of shares will be
registered.

By Order of the Board,
D. S. YUAN,
Chief Manager.

Hong Kong, 4th March, 1948.

THE "STAR" FERRY COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

NOTICE is hereby given that
the Forty-sixth Ordinary Yearly
Meeting of the Members of this
Company will be held at the
Office of Messrs. Jardine,
Matheson & Co., Ltd., on Wed-
nesday, the 17th day of March,
1948, at Noon, to receive the
Report of the Board of Direc-
tors and Statement of Accounts
for the year ended 31st Decem-
ber, 1947, to elect Directors and
to appoint Auditors.

Notice is also given that the
Transfer Books of the Company
will be closed from the 4th
March, 1948, to the 17th March,
1948, both days inclusive.

By Order of the
Board of Directors,
H. S. TERRY,
Manager & Secretary.

UNION WATERBOAT CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that the thirty-ninth Ordinary
General Meeting of the Com-
pany will be held at the Offices of
Messrs. Dodwell & Co., Ltd.,
3rd floor, Hong Kong Bank
Building, on Friday, the 19th
March, 1948, at 11 a.m. for the
purpose of receiving the Re-
port and Statement of Accounts
for the year ended 31st Decem-
ber, 1947.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN
that the Transfer Books of the
Company will be closed from the
5th March, 1948 to the 19th
March, 1948 both days inclu-
sive.

DODWELL & CO., LTD.,
General Managers,
26th February, 1948.

CHINESE ESTATES, LIMITED

TWENTY-FIRST ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
that the TWENTY-FIRST ORDINARY
YEARLY MEETING OF
SHAREHOLDERS will be
held at the Company's Office
at China Buildings (5th floor),
Hong Kong, on Monday, the
12th April, 1948, at 12 o'clock
noon, for the purpose of re-
ceiving the Report of the Directors
and a Statement of Account
for the year ending the 31st
December, 1947, and of elect-
ing three Directors and an Au-
ditor.

The TRANSFER BOOK of
the Company will be CLOSED
from the 30th March to the
12th April, 1948, both days in-
clusive.

By Order of the Board of
Directors,
LI KWAN HUNG,
Acting Secretary.

Hongkong, 10th March, 1948.

Service Auction Rooms
Auctioneers, Surveyors and
Appraisers, 101 Jervois Street,
1st Floor, Tel. 20066.

NOTICE ROYAL HONG KONG YACHT CLUB

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING POSTPONED TO 6th APRIL, 1948.

Since further amendments to
the proposed new Articles of
Association had to be made, it
will be necessary to postpone
the Extraordinary General
Meeting originally called for
15th March, 1948, and

NOTICE IS HEREBY given
that the EXTRAORDINARY
GENERAL MEETING of the
Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club
will be held at the Club House
on TUESDAY, 6th April, 1948,
at 6 p.m., when the subjoined
Resolution will be proposed as
a Special Resolution.

"That the Articles of
Association adopted by the
Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club
by an extraordinary resolution
passed on the 25th day of
October, 1933, and confirmed as
a Special Resolution on the
15th day of November, 1933, be
hereby revoked.

FURTHER THAT the Articles
of Association, a copy whereof
has for identification, been
signed by the Commodore, Mr.
N. V. A. Croucher, and by the
Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. S. Coote,
and has been open for inspection
in the Hon. Secretary's Office
since the 12th day of March,
1948, be and are hereby adopted
as the Articles of Association
of the Royal Hong Kong Yacht
Club."

A copy of the proposed
amended Articles signed by the
Commodore and by the Hon.
Secretary is open for inspection
in the Hon. Secretary's Office,
Room 132, Gloucester Building.

Copies of the amendments
will be circulated to all
members.

By Order of the Committee,
F. S. COOTE,
Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong, 12th March, 1948.

ROYAL HONG KONG YACHT CLUB DANCE

Thursday, 25th Mar. 1948

A Dance will be held at the
Club on Thursday 25th March.
(The night before Easter).

Details will be circulated.

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO. LTD.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

The Seventy-fifth Ordinary
Yearly Meeting of Shareholders
will be held at the offices of the
Undersigned on Friday, the 2nd
April, 1948, at Noon, for the
purpose of receiving the Report
of the General Managers to-
gether with a Statement of Ac-
counts for the year ended 31st
December, 1947.

The Share Register and
Transfer Books will be closed
from the 19th March to the
2nd April, 1948, both days in-
clusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON &
CO., LTD.,
General Managers,
The Hong Kong Fire Insurance
Co., Ltd.

Hongkong, 12th March, 1948.

THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB

Australian Subscription Ponies 1948

The Stewards have ordered a
batch of Australian Subscrip-
tion ponies to race in 1949 and
they now invite Members to
subscribe for them.

The Subscription List will
close with Wednesday, 17th
March, 1948.

Application forms may be
obtained at the Secretary's
Office, 1st Floor, Exchange
Building.

By Order,
S. A. BLAIR,
Acting Secretary.

THE CHINA PROVIDENT LOAN AND MORTGAGE COMPANY, LIMITED

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

NOTICE is hereby given that
the Forty Seventh Annual
General Meeting of the Share-
holders will be held in the Jaco-
bean Room of the Hong Kong
Hotel, Pedder Street, Hong-
kong, on Saturday, the 3rd
April, 1948, at Noon for the
following purposes, namely, to
consider the annual statement
of accounts and the balance
sheet, and the reports of the
Directors and Auditors there-
on, to elect Directors and
Auditors in the place of those
retiring, to declare a dividend
and bonus, to appropriate the
balance of Profit and Loss
Account as recommended by
the Directors, and to transact
any other ordinary business of
the Company.

AND NOTICE is also given
that the Share Transfer Regis-
ters will be closed from 30th
March, 1948 to 3rd April, 1948,
both days inclusive.

By order of the Board,
R. A. WICKERSON,
Managing Director.

Hongkong, 9th March, 1948.

SANDAKAN LIGHT & POWER CO. (1922) LTD.

Notice is hereby given that
the Twenty-first Ordinary Year-
ly meeting of the Shareholders
will be held at the Head Office
of the Company, Chung Tin
Building, Hong Kong, on Tues-
day, the 30th day of March,
1948, at 12 noon, for the pur-
pose of receiving a Statement
of Accounts and the Report of
Directors, for the year ended
30th June 1947, and to transact
the Ordinary business of the
Company.

By Order of the
Board of Directors.

SHEWAN TOMES & CO. LTD.

I. W. SHEWAN
Director
General Managers.

HONGKONG, 13th March 1948.

URBAN COUNCIL NOTICE

It is hereby notified that it
is the intention of the Urban
Council to exhume all un-
authorised graves and urns in
the New Kowloon No. 7
Cemetery at Ngau Chi Wan.
The exhumations will commence
on 1st September, 1948. The
remains so exhumed will be
removed to New Kowloon No.
8 Cemetery (Diamond Hill Urn
Cemetery) for reburial. All
persons wishing to arrange for
private exhumation of any of
these urns should apply to
the Urban Council before 1st
September, 1948.

T. S. D. WHITLEY,
Secretary, Urban Council.

10th March, 1948.

Y.M.C.A. THE MIDDLE WATCH.

NOTICE

The MATINEE Performance of
"THE MIDDLE WATCH"
for Saturday Afternoon
(3 p.m.)
has been
CANCELLED.

Those who have already
booked seats may have their
money refunded on application
to Booking Office.

CHATHAM ENGLISH SCHOOL

Preparations are being com-
pleted for the above School to
open classes 4-8 for boys and
girls at No. 1 Chatham Path,
May Road, Hong Kong.

Students intending to regis-
ter should apply to Room 501,
Pedder Building, Hong Kong.
Principal: Mrs. W. H. Lattimer.
Manager: Raymond Chiang.

NOTICE

Subject to audit, the Directors
of The Dairy Farm Ice & Cold
Storage Co., Ltd., will present
and submit to the shareholders at
the Extraordinary Meeting of the
Company, to be held at the
Company's Office, 1st Floor,
Exchange Building.

By Order,
S. A. BLAIR,
Acting Secretary.

Contaminated Pig Sold In Kowloon

On Feb. 29, Lee Kam-shing brought a live pig
from the country and handed it to Lau Fat,
58-year-old master of the Sun Tung Shing Pic
Dealers Shop at 96 Fa Yuen Street, to sell.
The pig, according to Lee, weighed about 40 catties,
was in good condition, and was valued at
\$60.

F.B.I.'s Reply To Cripps

London, Mar. 11.
British industrialists and
manufacturers today told the
Chancellor of the Exchequer,
Sir Stafford Cripps, that they
considered his "war wages,
prices and profits" policy was
only a partial temporary solu-
tion to Britain's problem of
inflation and was, in principle,
thoroughly unsatisfactory.
The powerful Federation of
British Industries, jointly with
the Association of Chambers of
Commerce and the National
Union of Manufacturers ex-
pressed these views in
their reply, published tonight.
Sir Stafford's appeal a month
ago for their cooperation in im-
plementing the Government's
new policy.

The three organisations re-
commended a reduction in the
prices of goods and services
wherever possible and a ceiling
on selling prices at present
levels, without reduction in
quality, "subject to discretion
in exceptional cases."—Reuter.

ROBBERY CHARGE

Tang Yiu-wing (28), Li Chung-
wa (25), and Lau Shiu-fai (24),
all of 255 Yu Chau Street, first floor, were
charged with the application of Det-
ective Inspector J.M. Forrest, remained
for another week in custody by
Mr. W. H. Lattimer at Kowloon
yesterday.

First two accused are charged
with armed robbery at 518
Nathan Road, ground floor, on
Jan. 28 and possession of a pistol.

SHOWING
TO-DAY
SPECIAL TIMES: 2.30, 5.00, 7.15 & 9.30 P.M.
TWO YEARS TO MAKE—TO BRING YOU THE MOST GLORIOUS ROMANTIC THRILLER!
CLARK GABLE · CHARLES LAUGHTON

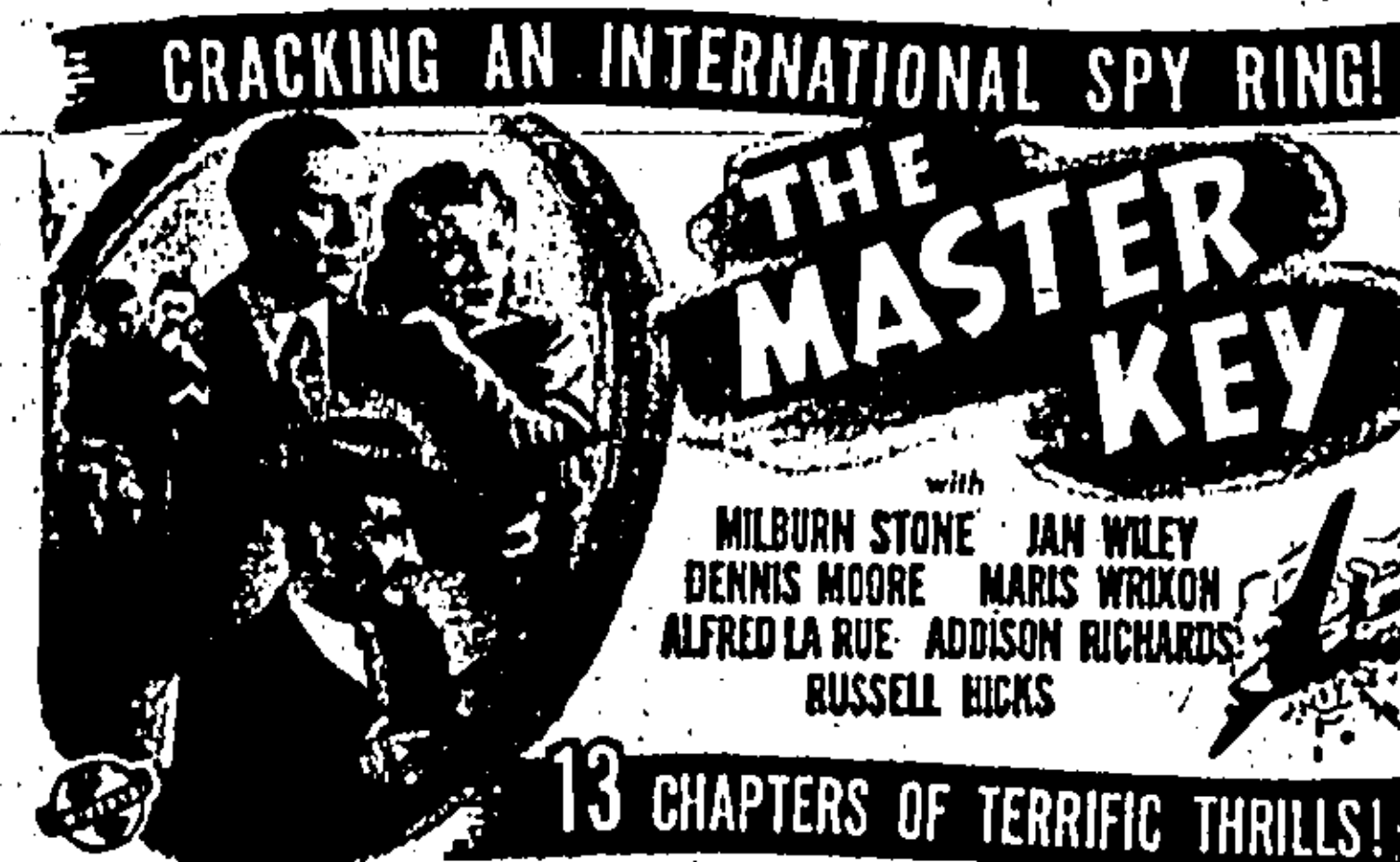


TO-MORROW MORNING at 11.30 A.M. ONLY
Humphrey BOGART
Ingrid BERGMAN
AT REDUCED PRICES!
"CASABLANCA"

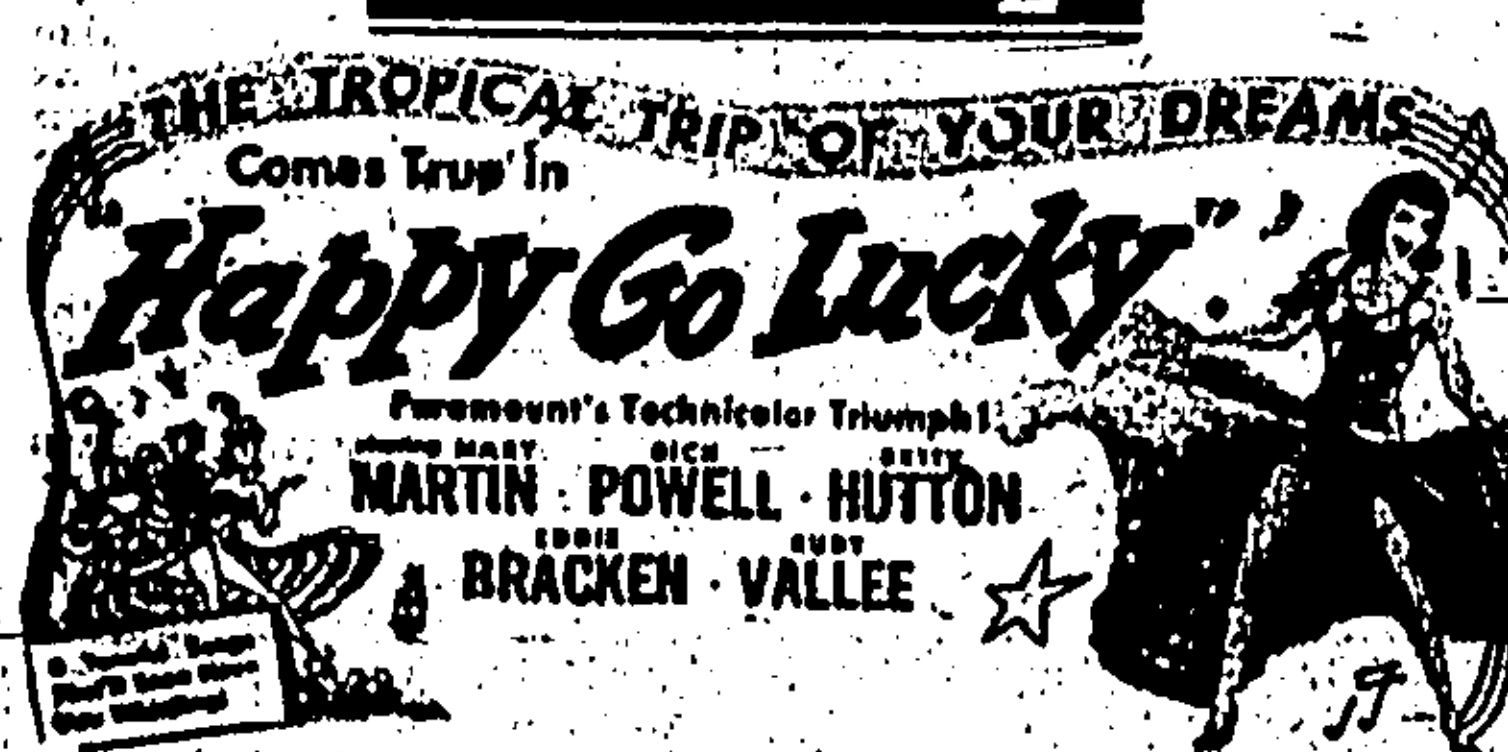
SHOWING
TO-DAY
AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.



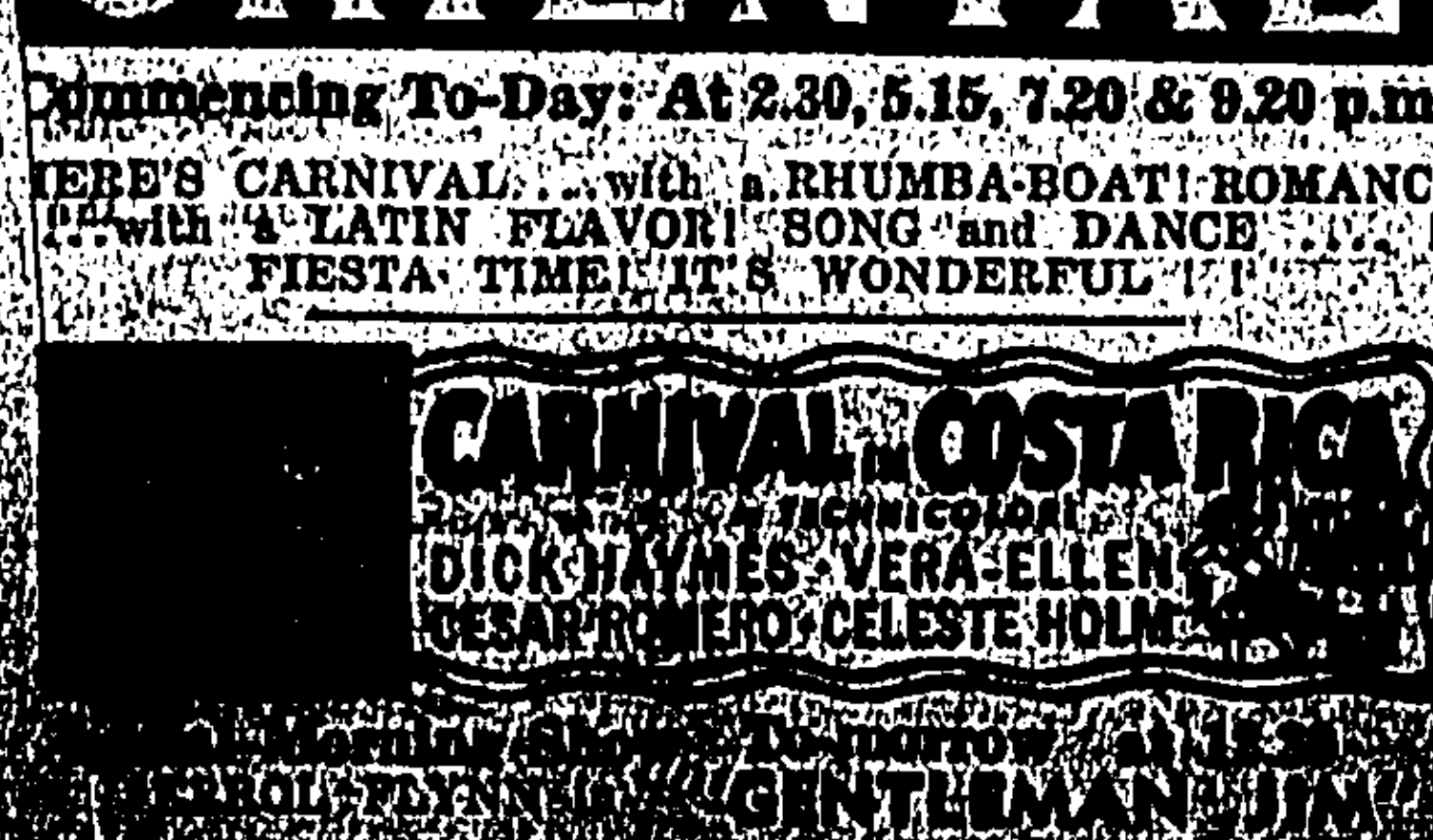
CENTRAL THEATRE
* 5 SHOWS DAILY *
AT 12.30, 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.
— FIRST EPISODE —



SHOWING
TO-DAY
At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.



ORIENTAL
Commencing To-Day At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.
HERE'S CARNIVAL with a RHUMBA-BOAT! ROMANCE with a LATIN FLAVOR! SONG and DANCE in FIESTA TIME! IT'S WONDERFUL!



FILMS DEADLOCK ENDED Britain And Hollywood Come To An Agreement

Punitive Tax To Be Withdrawn

London, Mar. 11.
Britain and Hollywood today ended their seven-months deadlock over the import of American films, Mr. Harold Wilson, President of the Board of Trade, announced in the House of Commons today, when he reported that an agreement had been reached with the Motion Pictures Association of America providing that:

The 75 per cent ad valorem tax imposed on American films last August to save dollars will be withdrawn as soon as the necessary order can be made.

Normal import of American films will be resumed as soon as possible.

The tax was imposed under Sir Stafford Cripps' "super-austerity" dollar saving programme. The Americans replied with banning the export of new films to Britain.

Under the new agreement, \$17 million (\$4,250,000) a year has been fixed for the remittance during the first two years of the earnings in Britain from the showing of American films, Mr. Wilson said.

This amount would cover not only the earnings of new American films, but also those of such films already in Britain.

Additional remittances in dollars of sums equivalent to the earnings of British films shown in the United States would be permitted, Mr. Wilson declared.

The agreement provides for permitted sterling uses of the revenues of American films which are in excess of the amounts that may be remitted across the exchanges, Mr. Wilson added.

Residual Balances

These permitted uses would be under the supervision of a joint control committee composed of representatives of the British Government and the American film industry.

Finally, Mr. Wilson said, the agreement contemplated that any residual balances, not eventually disposed of by the means he had already described, would be cleared by an agreed transaction not involving any strain on the foreign exchange position of Britain or creating a further claim on sterling.

Such transactions might take the form of charitable or public uses, including the encouragement of arts and science.

It was intended that the main structure of the agreement should last four years, with a provision for a review at the end of the first two.

It would come into force on June 14.—Reuter.

Unification Snarled

Washington, Mar. 11.
Representative Carl Hishaw (Republican, California) today charged that Services unification was "bogged down in a controversy" over the role of each service.

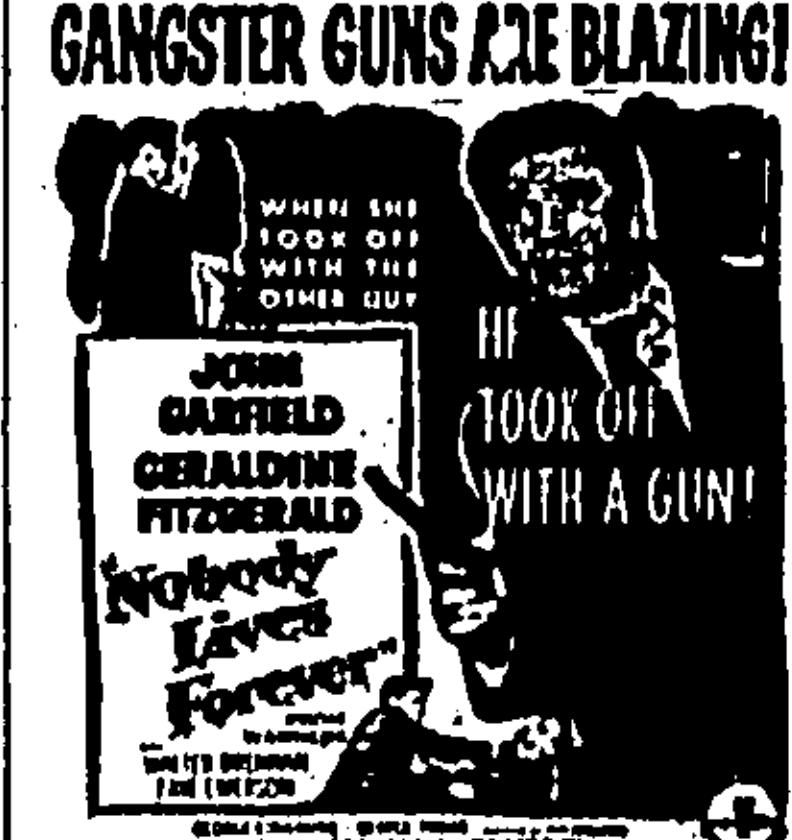
Vice-chairman of the Congressional Aviation Policy Board, he urged President Truman to act immediately to correct what he called a dangerous situation.

"Some forthright orders to the joint Chiefs of Staff from the President—orders to get together and get on with the unified plan action—are needed immediately."

He said the controversy revolves chiefly around the question of whether the Air Force is to be solely responsible for strategic bombing or whether the Navy should have part or, as some claim, all of that mission. Hishaw said he could not be silent and see the strength of national defence "frustrated away by confusion, neglect and failure to provide a comprehensive overall planning of implicit policies laid down by Congress.—United Press.

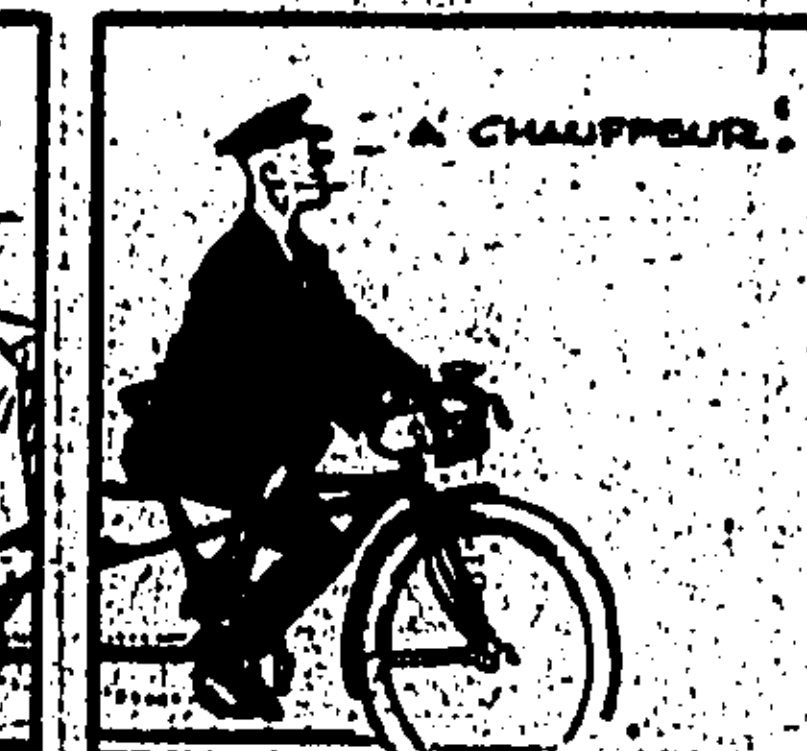
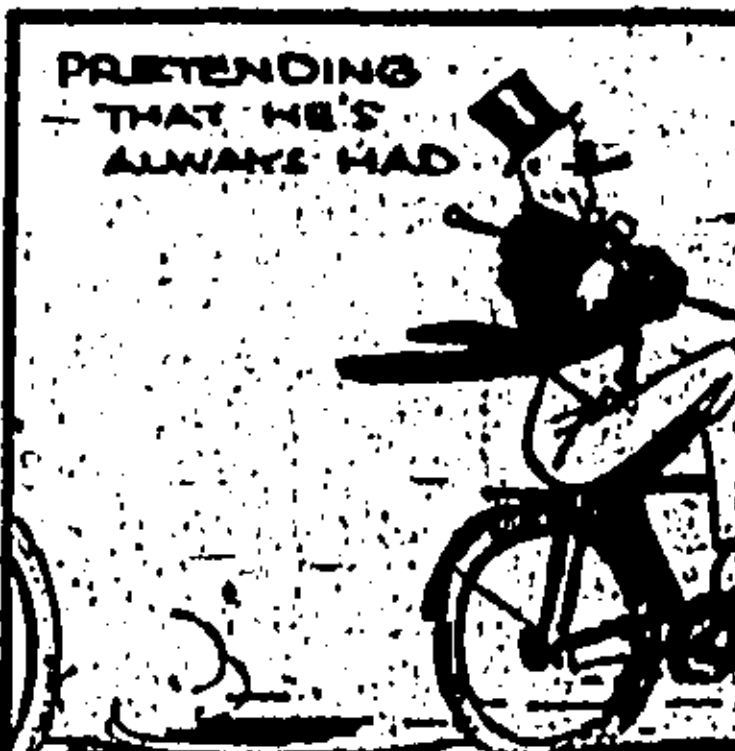
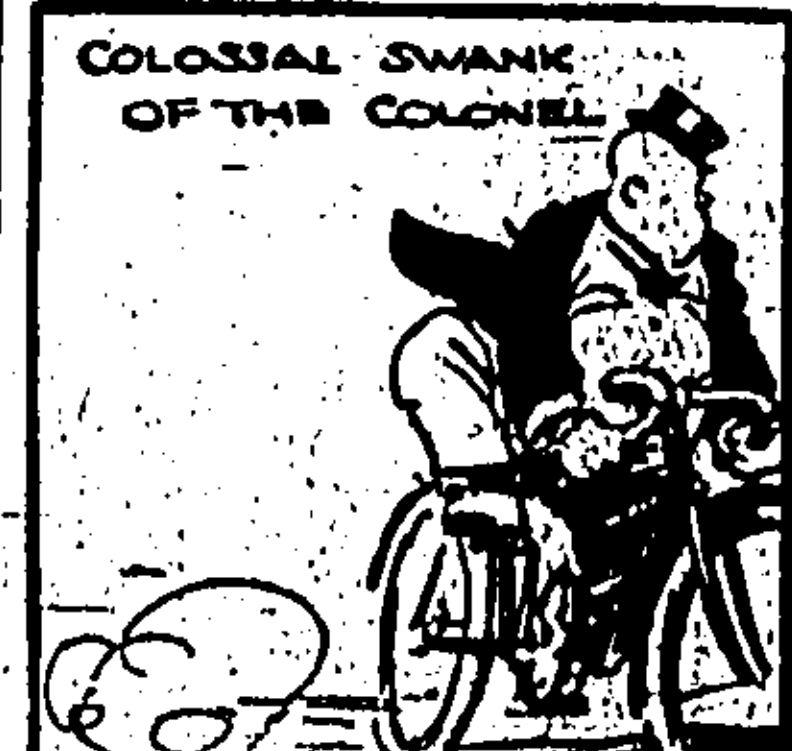
STAR
Phone 56315
2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.
TO-DAY ONLY

GANGSTER GUNS ARE BLAZING!



TO-MORROW & MONDAY
"BATAAN"
starring Robert Taylor · Lloyd Nolan

POP



JANE



Suicide In Prison Cell

London, Mar. 11.
Swiss Radio said tonight that the former Secretary General of the Czechoslovak National Socialist Party, M. Josef Horek, had committed suicide in his prison cell.

This was officially reported in Prague tonight, the Radio added.—Reuter.

Vatican Fraud Allegations

Rome, Mar. 11.
"Osservatore Romano" announced on Thursday night that the resignation of Monsignor Giulio Guidetti from the office of administration of Holy See Properties "was provoked by his involvement in some of the financial operations of Edoardo Pretner," unfrocked Monsignor now in Italian police hands.

These operations, the announcement said, "concerned sums belonging to Alessandro Rossini," Italian industrialist.

Rossini, after writing to Pope Pius on Jan. 29, listing consignments of some 400 million lire, to the Properties Office, has filed charges against Guidetti with the Italian police.

Guidetti has been placed under house arrest pending investigation of his honouring a document falsified by Pretner.

Under the Lateran treaties Italian police will not be able to arrest Guidetti while he wears the cloth.

Rossini told the Associated Press that the Holy See has made no proposals for restitution and that he had therefore filed charges with Italian police authorities.—Associated Press.

Italian Reds And Marshall Plan

London, Mar. 11.
The Communists are for the first time ready to discuss the Marshall Plan. A leading Communist, Signor Giuseppe Di Vittorio, is bringing to London an Italian trade union delegation which will to-morrow start discussions on the plan with two representatives of the American Congress of Industrial Organizations, Mr. James Carey and Mr. Richard Ross.

The delegation comes from the majority group of the Italian Labour Federation, which comprises both Communists and Socialists.

Unlike the non-Communist minority group, it declined to attend this week's London Conference of trade unionists from the Marshall Plan states.

When Signor Gluglio Pastore decided to lead the Italian delegation to that conference, Signor Vittorio was said to have condemned his action as "incompatible with the discipline of the Federation."

One theory about the visit of

the Italian delegation advanced here is that it might represent an attempt by the Italian Communists to ensure, in the light of the coming Italian elections, that their attitude to the earlier conference should not prejudice the Italian hopes of dollar aid in the European recovery programme.

At the Trades Union Congress headquarters, it was stated that it was entirely a matter between the Italian delegation and the American trade union representatives.

The Italian delegation is expected here tonight.—Reuter.

Gustav Amused By Rumours

Stockholm, Mar. 11.
Stockholm today mourned 89-year-old King Gustav of Sweden—who was at the moment in the best of health on his way to the South of France on a holiday trip.

King Gustav arrived in Paris by train at 3.50 p.m. GMT, smiling and looking remarkably fit.

Flags were lowered to half mast in many official and private buildings and the Swedish Radio changed its home service programme to one of solemn music.

The gloom was lifted when the evening newspaper, Aftonbladet, reported from the Belgian border station that the King was very amused by the rumours and found them "rather exaggerated."

The rumours had swept London, Paris, Berlin, Brussels and Copenhagen as well as the Swedish capital.

Later the Swedish Embassy in Paris officially denied the rumour that King Gustav had died.—Reuter.

SOMETHING NEW IN ENTERTAINMENT FOR EVERYONE

Presenting the THIRD programme of the NEW SERIES of Newsreel Documentary films in KOWLOON.

THIS WEEK AT THE MAJESTIC THEATRE KOWLOON:

MORNING SHOWS
SUNDAY 14TH MARCH

11 a.m. 12 noon 1 p.m.
By arrangement with International Films & Public Relations Office.

1. COLOURED CARTOON.
2. BLOOD TRANSFUSION—One day it may save your life.
3. LATEST PATHE NEWS-REEL.
4. ST. PAUL'S—An Action picture. See the bombing and survival.
5. BRITAIN No. 12—Going to school: Knitting Nylon—The Circus.
6. COLOURED CARTOON.

THREE SHOWS EACH MORNING
ADMISSION 60 CTS.

A WEALTH OF ENTERTAINMENT AND INFORMATION

Presenting the SIXTH programme of the New Series.

THIS WEEK AT THE KING'S THEATRE

By arrangement with International Films and Public Relations Office.

MORNING SHOWS

Sat. 13th Mar. Sun. 14th Mar.
10.30 a.m. 11.45 a.m. 1 p.m.

1. COLOURED CARTOON.
2. Farmer's Boy—in MANDARIN DIALOGUE.
3. ORDERS FROM TOKYO in Technicolor (a story of the Philippines).
4. LATEST PATHE NEWS-REEL.
5. BRITAIN No. 16—Shunter's skill: a peep at nature: the past of the century.
6. COLOURED CARTOON.

THREE SHOWS EACH MORNING
ADMISSION TO ALL SEATS
ONE DOLLAR

LEETHEATRE

ADVANCE BOOKING OFFICE ST. FRANCIS HOTEL.
Booking Hours: 11.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Daily

SHOWING TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.10, 7.15 & 9.15 P.M.

THROUGH INDESCRIBABLE DANGERS
To A GIRL HE HAD TO FIND!

The guilty half of his story all Frisco knew. The other half was a love story—with a threat at the end that he had to do something about it.



Also Latest G.B. News: CAMBRIDGE BUMPING RACES. BRITISH FASHIONS for HOME & OVERSEA. RUGBY — ENGLAND v. IRELAND.

MORNING SHOW SUNDAY AT 11.30 A.M. ONLY
NEW VARIETY PROGRAMME

- LATEST NEWSREEL
- COMEDIES
- WALT DISNEY'S COLOUR CARTOONS

ALHAMBRA THEATRE

SHOWING TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 P.M.

It's the Musical of Musicals
—with a Story As Big As Its Stars



SHOWING TO-DAY
At 2.30, 5.00, 7.20 & 9.20 P.M.

MAJESTIC

TO-DAY



SHOWING TO-DAY
At 2.30, 5.00, 7.20 & 9.20 P.M.

HELP THE WAR AGAINST TRACHOMA!
(MOST PREVALENT OF CHINA'S EYE DISEASES)

BY PATRONIZING THE

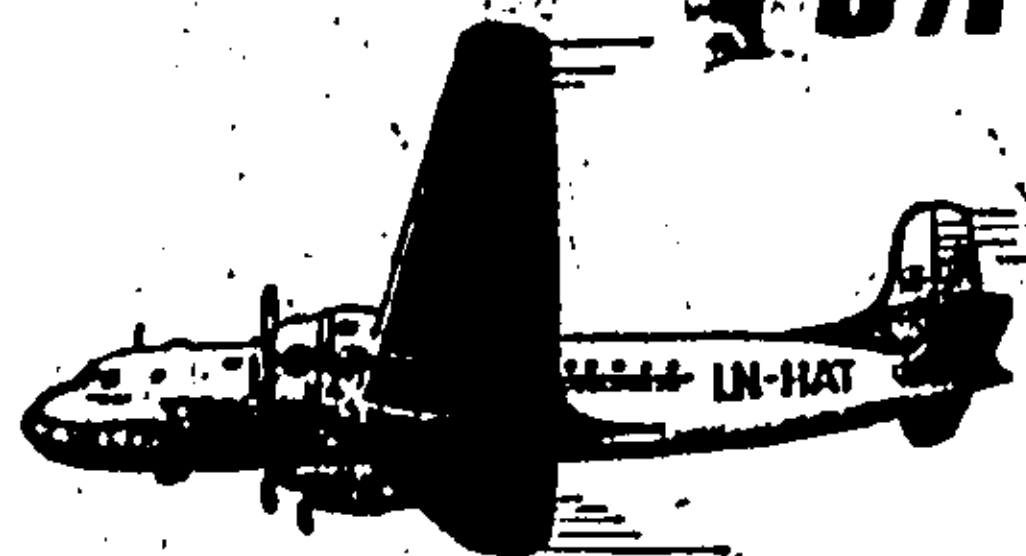
HONG KONG ROTARY CLUB'S
CHARITY SUPPER DANCE

IN
"THE GRIPPS" (HONG KONG HOTEL)
At 8 P.M. On Monday 15th March

Tickets: 5/-, 10/-, 15/-, 20/-, 25/-, 30/-, 35/-, 40/-, 45/-, 50/-, 55/-, 60/-, 65/-, 70/-, 75/-, 80/-, 85/-, 90/-, 95/-, 100/-

DANCING ENTERTAINMENT FREE

BRAATHENS
SOUTH AMERICAN & FAR EAST AIRTRANSPORT A-S
S.A.F.E.



LUXURIOUS "SKYMASTER" FOUR ENGINE PLANE NORWAY-EUROPE-HONGKONG.

HONGKONG-LONDON

VIA AMSTERDAM
BOOKINGS ACCEPTED FOR ANY EUROPEAN DESTINATION
NO PRIORITIES REQUIRED
EXPECTED DEPARTURES FROM HONGKONG:

13th March
17th March
29th March
10th April

For Passage & Freight Bookings Apply to:-

WALLEM & CO.

Agents:
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Building, Tels: 34177-9
Chinese Freight Agents: HIN FAT & CO., Tel. 23483

B.O.A.C. U. K. to Japan

B.O.A.C. have pleasure in announcing the extension of their SPEEDBIRD Flying Boat Service from

HONG KONG to JAPAN Weekly Service

First Service
Leaves Hong Kong Thursday, 25th March
Returns from Iwakuni Friday, 26th March

Come & watch
our **'DONUTS'**
machines at work
at our stores -

25, Des Voeux Road, O.T.
30, Queen's Road, Central
Daily from 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.
377, Nathan Road, Kowloon
Daily from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Delicious

'DONUTS'

Unbaked by hand
loved by all children
hot, sweet and fresh

ON LOK YUEN Co., Ltd.

Western European Alliance TO BE SIGNED ON WEDNESDAY

London, Mar. 11.
A five-power West European Alliance will be signed next Wednesday, and the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, will visit Brussels for the ceremony.
The draft prepared by the Brussels Conference as a result of its discussions since March 4 will be discussed by the five Governments during the next few days, but the text is not likely to be published until it is normally signed.

Tentative arrangements suggest that Mr. Bevin will leave London on Sunday in time to reach Paris for the opening of the 16-power European recovery talks, opening at the Quai d'Orsay on Monday.
It is thought he will deliver a full-dress speech as head of the British delegation during one of the plenary sessions which he attends on Monday afternoon or Tuesday.

He is expected to travel to Brussels on Tuesday evening and after the signing of the Western Alliance, to return to London next Thursday.
The Brussels negotiations are seen here as a link between them and the Paris 16-nation conference.

Security Clauses

There is particularly interest in London in the exact form given to the security clauses of the alliance. It is felt that on them will largely depend the shape of the security discussions at the six-power German talks due to be resumed in London in mid-April.
The Brussels negotiations are seen here as a link between them and the Paris 16-nation conference.

For example, the final terms of the clause in the Brussels treaty governing admission of new members to the Western Alliance must colour any discussions in Paris on the prospects and the timing of the widening the alliance.

If, as the latest reports from Brussels suggest, the economic links between the five signatories are worked out in some detail, observers believe it must tend to retard the accession of new members on entirely equal terms.

"Run In"

The Benelux countries, whose representatives in Brussels have pressed for the greatest possible measure of economic coordination between the founder members, are unlikely to be enthusiastic about admitting other nations into such a close economic association until the alliance has had time to be "run in" and to prove its economic value.

The wording of the clauses specifying the conditions on which mutual aid provisions would operate will be watched closely for their possible effect on the Russian reaction, which will inevitably be hostile to the new treaty.

The technical drafting problem has been to make the defence provisions as comprehensive as possible and, simultaneously, to conform to the letter and spirit of the United Nations Charter.

Coroner Not At All Satisfied

London, Mar. 11.
A London coroner's court today ruled that 58-year old Sir Derrick Julius Wernher—son of a South African millionaire and the "richest woman in England"—who was found dead outside his flat here on Saturday, died "in circumstances not sufficiently disclosed by the evidence."
The coroner said that the evidence spoke of "disinfectant" and "giddiness" and indicated that it was possible to fall over the parapet of the seventh-floor balcony from which Sir Derrick plunged to his death.
A solicitor gave evidence that information had reached his office that Sir Derrick was being pressed by a certain creditor.
Sir Derrick's father was Sir Julius Wernher, who died in 1912 (the year of the discovery of diamonds in South Africa) and was the father of the late Sir Julius Wernher, who died in 1937.

The coroner said that the evidence spoke of "disinfectant" and "giddiness" and indicated that it was possible to fall over the parapet of the seventh-floor balcony from which Sir Derrick plunged to his death.
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Sir Derrick's father was Sir Julius Wernher, who died in 1912 (the year of the discovery of diamonds in South Africa) and was the father of the late Sir Julius Wernher, who died in 1937.

While the treaty is officially secret, reliable sources said it would probably include the following:

1. Signatories to render automatic military assistance to any signatory attacked by a European aggressor.
2. All disputes to be settled at the International Court of Justice at The Hague.
3. Applications by other countries to be considered by and approved only with the unanimous consent of all five powers.
4. The Western European bloc to be linked to British, French, Belgian and Dutch overseas possessions through clauses of the economic treaty.
5. Signatories to receive mutual protection from "political infiltration."
6. Once the treaty is formally signed, the five nations will form a joint consultative committee enforcing economic, cooperative and defence clauses.—United Press.

Sensational Slovene Arrests

Belgrade, Mar. 11.
A series of sensational arrests on charges of espionage and involving high personalities in the Communist Party were reported here today from Slovenia.

The charges against them will include prewar "infiltration" into the Slovene Communist Party allegedly as British intelligence agents and the exploiting of their postwar positions as high State officials for "economic espionage."

Government officials refused to discuss the situation tonight, but it is known that among the accused is at least one Assistant Minister, a high official of the Slovene Economic Control Commission, and the Communist Party secretary of one of the most important Yugoslav industrial districts.

MacArthur Screens Comment

New York, Mar. 11.
A special "New York Times" dispatch from Tokyo said the occupation authorities are carefully screening the material the Japanese are allowed to read about the American reaction to General Douglas MacArthur's announcement of his availability as a Presidential candidate.

The dispatch, by Lindsey Parrot, indicated Allied censors already have deleted at least one comment from the Japanese press and held up for about 24 hours other dispatches containing editorial expressions by some leading US newspapers.

"Dispatches killed or delayed include an Associated Press dispatch from Tokyo for dissemination both in the United States and locally, stating that the MacArthur statement left the door open for his withdrawal unless adequate support seemed forthcoming."

"Also delayed was an interpretive article by Russell Brines, Associated Press, saying that General MacArthur would not return to take part in the Republican National Convention."

"A third article that is held to be objectionable for Japanese readers is an Associated Press dispatch quoting editorials of the New York 'Sun,' 'Daily Post,' and the Buffalo 'Evening News.' Those questioned the volume of support for the Commander at home, termed him an enigmatic candidate whose views were unknown and referred to the General as a dark horse."

The Japanese press already has been warning of MacArthur's candidacy as a dark horse.

Corner Stone Of Stability

New York, Mar. 11.
The five-nation pact now being negotiated in Brussels "may become the corner stone of stability in Europe and of the peace of the world," the Belgian Ambassador to the United States, Baron Robert Silvercruys, declared on his arrival here last night in the Queen Elizabeth.

He described the regional defence and economic agreement, uniting Britain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg, as the beginning of a great idea, in perfect conformity with the United Nations Charter.—Reuter.

Czechs Given Health Leave

Prague, Mar. 11.
"Health leave," ranging from one week to ten months, was granted today to ten non-Communist Parliamentary deputies, most of whom were expelled from their parties last week.
Among them were the former Minister, Václav Majer (Social Democrat) and Frantisek Hala (People's Party).
At the opening of the plenary session of Parliament today, the Speaker of the House also formally announced six resignations previously reported. Press reports said at least three more deputies resigned yesterday.—United Press.

Gottwald Gets Vote Of Confidence

Prague, Mar. 11.
Dr. Klement Gottwald and his new Communist-dominated Government today received an unanimous vote of confidence from the Czechoslovak Parliament, which began discussion of the programme outlined yesterday.

It was officially announced that up to today six of the 300 Members of Parliament had resigned their seats. Yesterday, 255 Members attended the first session since the Government changes at the end of February.

The House may meet daily until next Tuesday.
The United States Ambassador, Mr. L. Steinhardt, for the Diplomatic Corps, and Professor Silin, Soviet Ambassador, for the Soviet Government, today expressed their condolences for the death of Dr. Jan Masaryk.

The Czech Minister of Social Welfare, M. Evzen Cernan, announced today that about a thousand of the country's 24,000 civil servants had been dismissed in recent purges. Some of them would be reinstated, he added.—Reuter.

Weizmann Sues For Libel

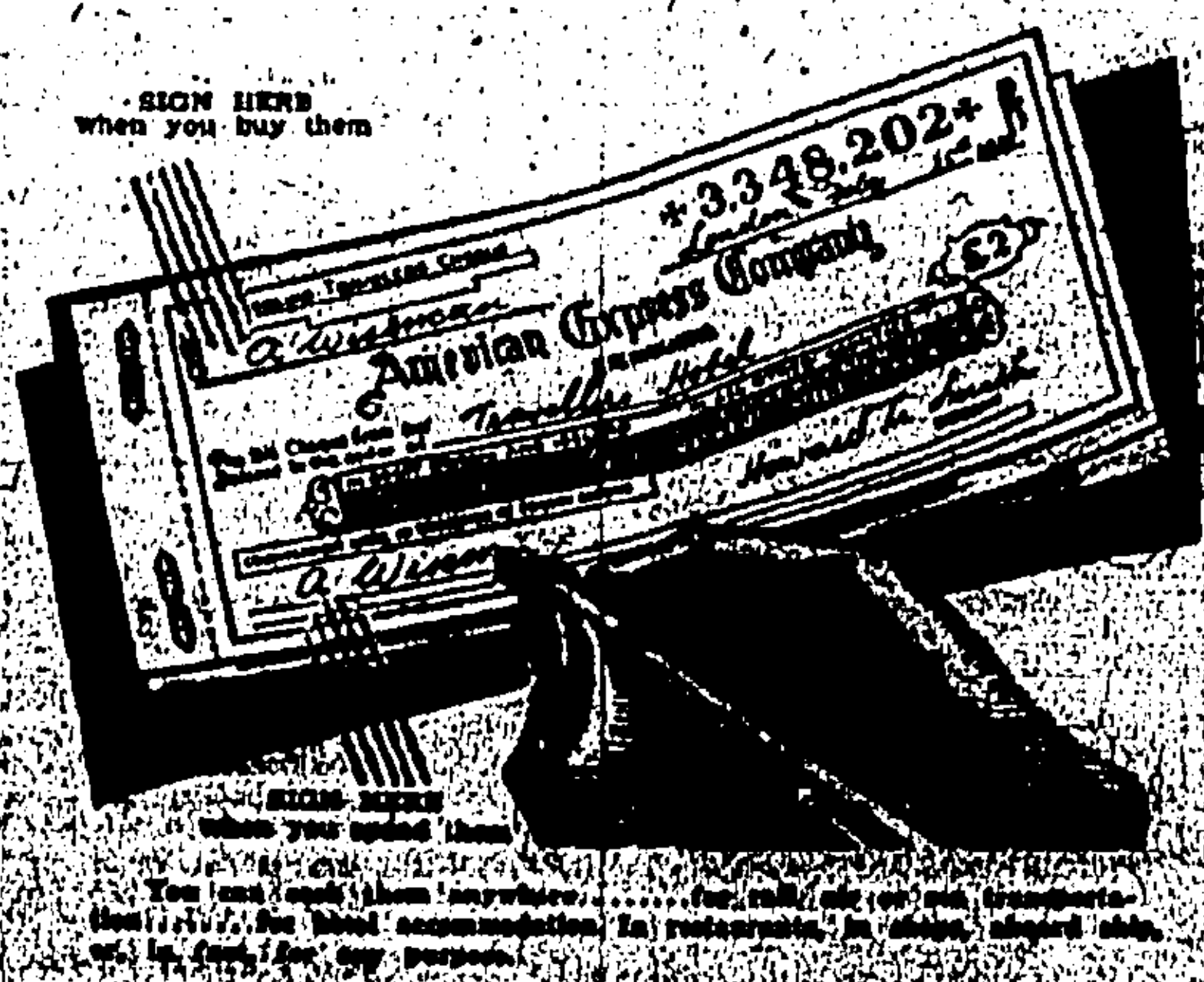
London, Mar. 10.
The High Court today approved a settlement, reached out of court, of a libel action by Dr. Chaim Weizmann, the former Jewish Agency head, against the Daily Mail.
Dr. Weizmann complained of an erroneous report, in some editions of the Daily Mail on Jan. 17, which alleged that he had been taken into custody in Palestine and had admitted flying a plane of the Hagana, the Jewish defence force.

It was stated that the paper had published an apology, which was repeated in court, would pay a substantial sum to charity, and would pay Dr. Weizmann's costs.
The mistake was explained as due to an error in transmission between offices.—Reuter.

Saxony Govt Resigns

Hanover, Mar. 11.
It was announced here today that the Government of Lower Saxony, in the British Zone, resigned yesterday.
Herr Heinrich Koff, the Premier, told the British Acting Regional Commissioner, Brigadier Linham, today that all attempts to settle the differences between the right and left-wing parties had failed and caused the Government to resign.
The Koff Coalition of all parties, except Communists, had held office since June, 1947.—Reuter.

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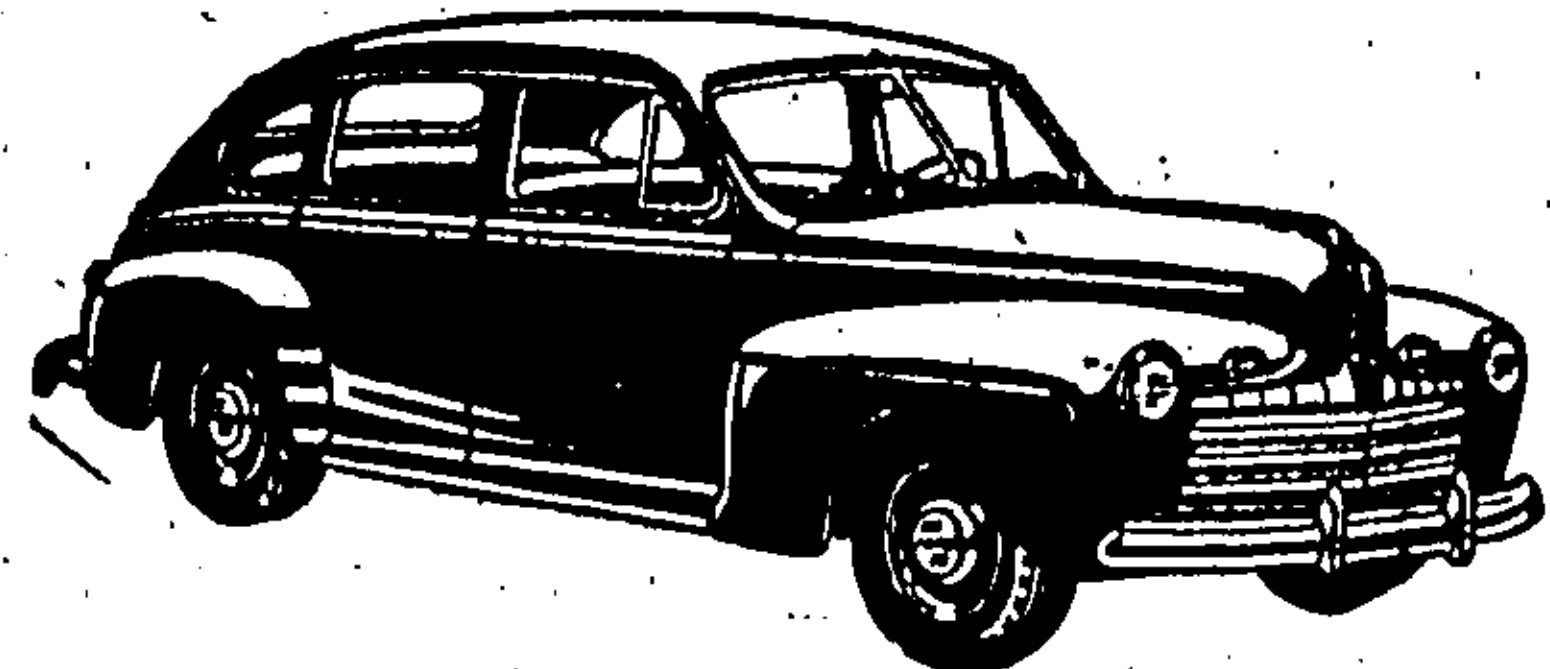
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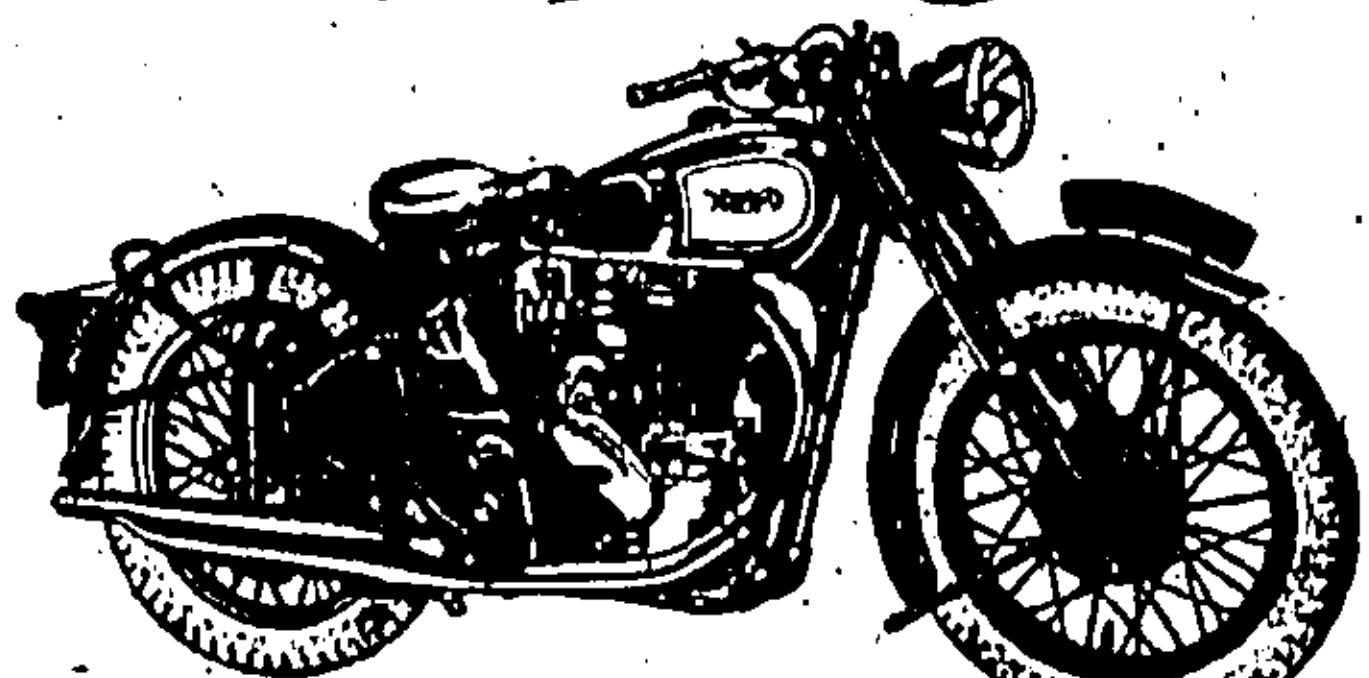
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**BRITAIN
INVADING
AMERICAN
MARKET**

The British are coming—British Austin, that is, writes the Automobile Editor of the "Christian Science Monitor" in a New York despatch.

A load of 30 shiny, new, 1948 Austins, first of a shipment of 600 before the end of this year, were landed on the New York docks.

Built especially for American markets, with left-hand drive, concealed running boards, and gasoline mileage of 30 to 35 miles per gallon, the cars follow closely the first shipment of postwar Rolls Royce automobiles into this country.

Like Rolls Royce, the British Austin Motor Company is all located in the bulk of its 1948 car production to the American market to help stabilize the British economy through exports.

"These cars have been carefully designed and engineered," commented G. W. Harriman, Works Director of Austin Motor Company, who came with the new cars. "They represent the finest cars we have produced in their price range."

Prices quoted for the two and four-door sedans delivered in New York and minus Federal taxes were \$1,395 and \$1,495, respectively.

Pointing out that Austin is setting up a permanent dealership and service organization in this country, Mr. Harriman stated that Austin owners will be assured of parts, anywhere in the United States within 24 hours.

The cars have four-cylinder engines with overhead valves, coil springs on front wheels, leather upholstery, and cruising speeds of 65 miles an hour.

They have four speeds forward, built-in directional signals, and finger-tip gearshift.

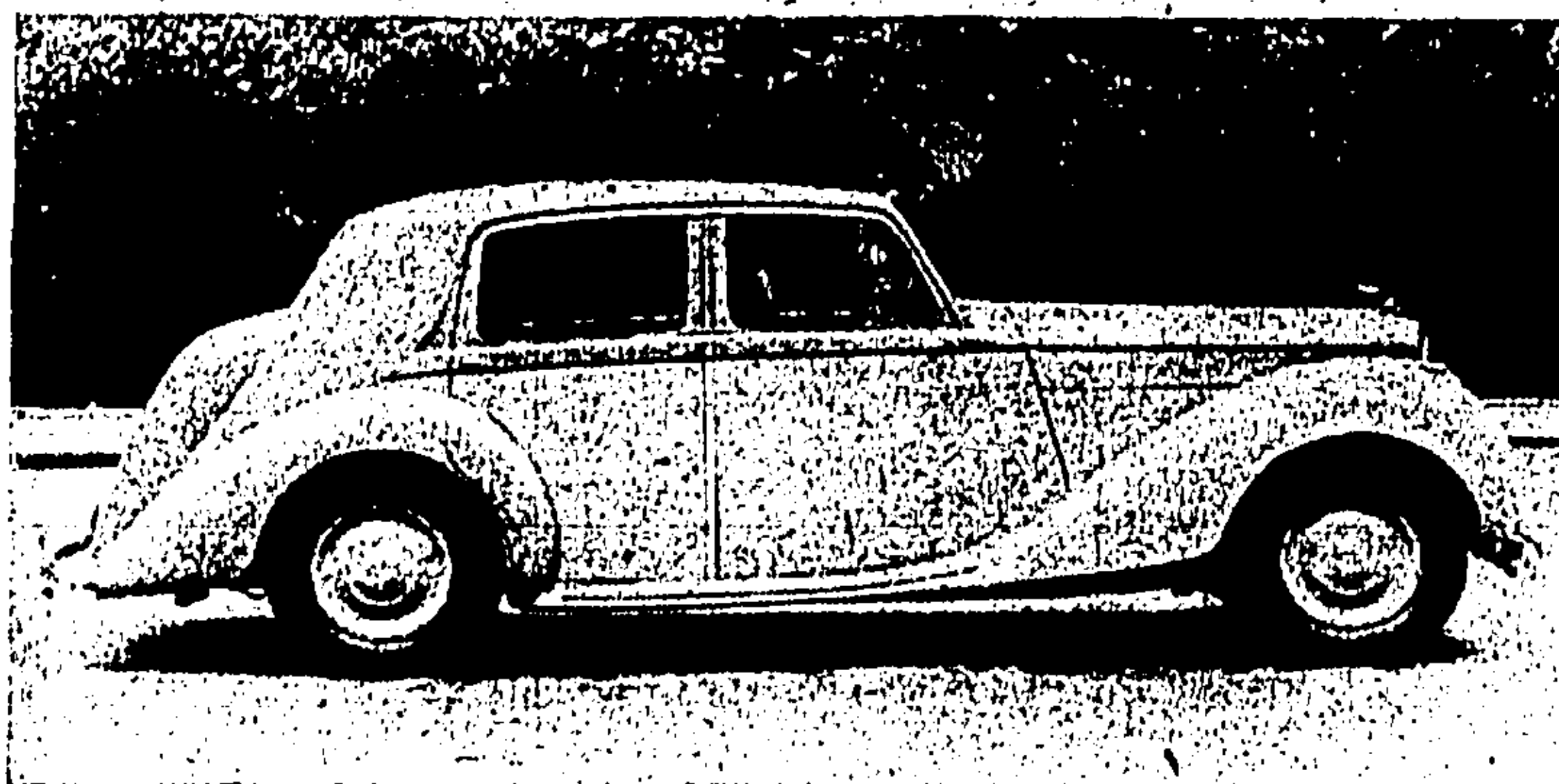
By the end of January, Austin aims at a shipment of more than 1,000 cars a month into the United States.

NASH

The Nash programme for 1948 continues to be based on the "600" and the Ambassador chassis. Body lines on the new models (sedans) are virtually unchanged but there is greater adornment with chromium plate and trimmings. All the new models have a built-in air-conditioning unit as a standard fitting, and a convertible double-bed as an optional fitting.

JOWETT

The first production Jowett Javelin is now being subjected to a severe running test in Europe by one of the company's directors. Apart from its four-cylinder engine, the Jowett strikes a new note in design by being fitted with a curved windshield.

**MOTORING NEWS AND VIEWS**

Britain's aristocrat in the car line is the 4-litre Bentley (shown above), the new models of which are now being exported in large numbers.

**New Designs For
Motor Show**

Many of Britain's new cars being designed for the 1948 Motor Show will look like miniature American models.

Car lights are being sunk in to wings in the style of American flush-fitting headlamps. These are going to appear on nearly all the small, popular types of cars.

Luxury cars of the Rolls-Royce type are sticking to the orthodox externally-mounted chromium headlamp, which adds dignity and beauty.

The rear-end styling of the new cars also follows the American trend of design, with a

multiplicity of in-built stop tail-lamps, number plate, illumination, and so on.

Doors also follow the modern pattern. The new models will have front and rear doors that open as part of the wings. A few of the new cars are adopting the flat-sided body, which covers both wheels on each side.

The advantage of this type of body is that it gives the maximum inside room for passengers.

Sun roofs are disappearing from many models. Gear levers are coming off the floor up to the top of the steering column.

**Fluorescent
Lighting In Cars**

Believed to be the first diesel vehicle to be equipped with fluorescent lighting in Britain, a special "Golden Jubilee" omnibus was put into service at Nottingham a short while ago.

This bus, and one of the original horse buses, was put on the road to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Nottingham's City Transport Department. The horse bus was taken out of service after a week but the Diesel bus is to be taken into service permanently.

The current for the lighting in the "Golden Jubilee" bus is derived from a normal 24-volt battery through a small C.A.V. rotary converter which gives 3-phase A.C. power at approximately 100 v. 400 cycles.

Twenty-three specially designed G.E.C. fluorescent fittings are employed, each totally enclosed by a recessed Perspex diffusing cover with opal ends, and carrying a 15-watt Osram warm-white fluorescent lamp.

The auxiliary gear has been made as small as possible, and is fixed behind each fitting. On the lower deck the gear is accommodated between lining and the outer shell of the bus, but on the upper deck, where there is no such space, pattresses provide the necessary depth.

The circuit allows of virtually instant starting, and practically constant light output, in spite of the variation which inevitably occurs in the supply frequency and voltage.

The average illumination is over 12 lumens per sq. ft., which is between two and three times that normally obtained in an up-to-date bus installation using tungsten filament lamps.

The fittings look very attractive, and although of necessity, they are near to eye level, there is no glare, thanks to the extremely good diffusion and the general brightness of the interior.

**Restrictions
on Petrol**

Various new restrictions on the use of petrol have been introduced in Spain.

These forbid the use of private cars of 18 HP and under on Tuesdays and Fridays, and ban the use of larger cars in the middle of the week, except on Thursdays. A weight limit of 1,150 kilos (approx. 2,530 lb.) has been fixed for cars which doctors may use for their professional duties.

Diplomatic and official cars are exempted from these regulations, which have been designed so that there is no interference with week-end travel. Penalties for non-compliance with the new regulations are severe and involve a fine of 1,000 pesetas (just over £15) and the impounding of the car for a month.

**Vauxhall
Dropping Ten**

Following the revised taxation announced for cars, and in order to concentrate production, Vauxhall Motors Ltd. have announced that they are to discontinue production of the Ten. Only two models will be made—the 12 hp. 4-cylinder and the 14 hp. six-cylinder. The company has no intention of resuming production of the previous 25 hp. model.

**Leave Car
Regulations**

Many British cars are delivered to overseas visitors from manufacturers' export quotas under the Leave Car Regulations, the purchaser undertaking to export the car within a prescribed period—which never exceeds 12 months.

The re-sale of the car in the United Kingdom, contrary to that undertaking, may entail heavy penalties. The transaction may also come within the provisions of the Exchange Control Act which came into force on October 1 and which prohibits any person in the United Kingdom making any payment to a person ordinarily resident abroad in the hard currency countries.

The British Motor Trade Association has therefore drafted a new rule for the protection of its members which states that no member shall buy or sell a car which has been registered within the United Kingdom for a period of less than 12 months and for which no consent to re-sell has been given by the Association.

With cars registered before March 14, 1947, the limiting period is six months.

When Henry Ford, Senior, controlled the Ford plant at Detroit there was a ban on smoking. This ban was lifted on November 15th last. Five days later, there was a fire, caused by a lighted cigarette, and which someone dropped into a paper-chute.

**Britain's
Record**

The value of the British motor industry's exports of vehicles and parts and accessories in October was just under £8,750,000, nearly six times the average monthly figure in 1938.

Exports of motorcars in the same month reached the record volume of 15,216, surpassing by one-tenth the previous peak figure of 13,854 cars exported in July of this year.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, in publishing these statistics, points out that the highest percentage of exports was among cars of from nine to 12 horsepower, amounting to 72 per cent. of the total output.

Belgium was the best market for British cars, importing 1,783. India followed with just over 1,500 and the Union of South Africa with over 1,400.

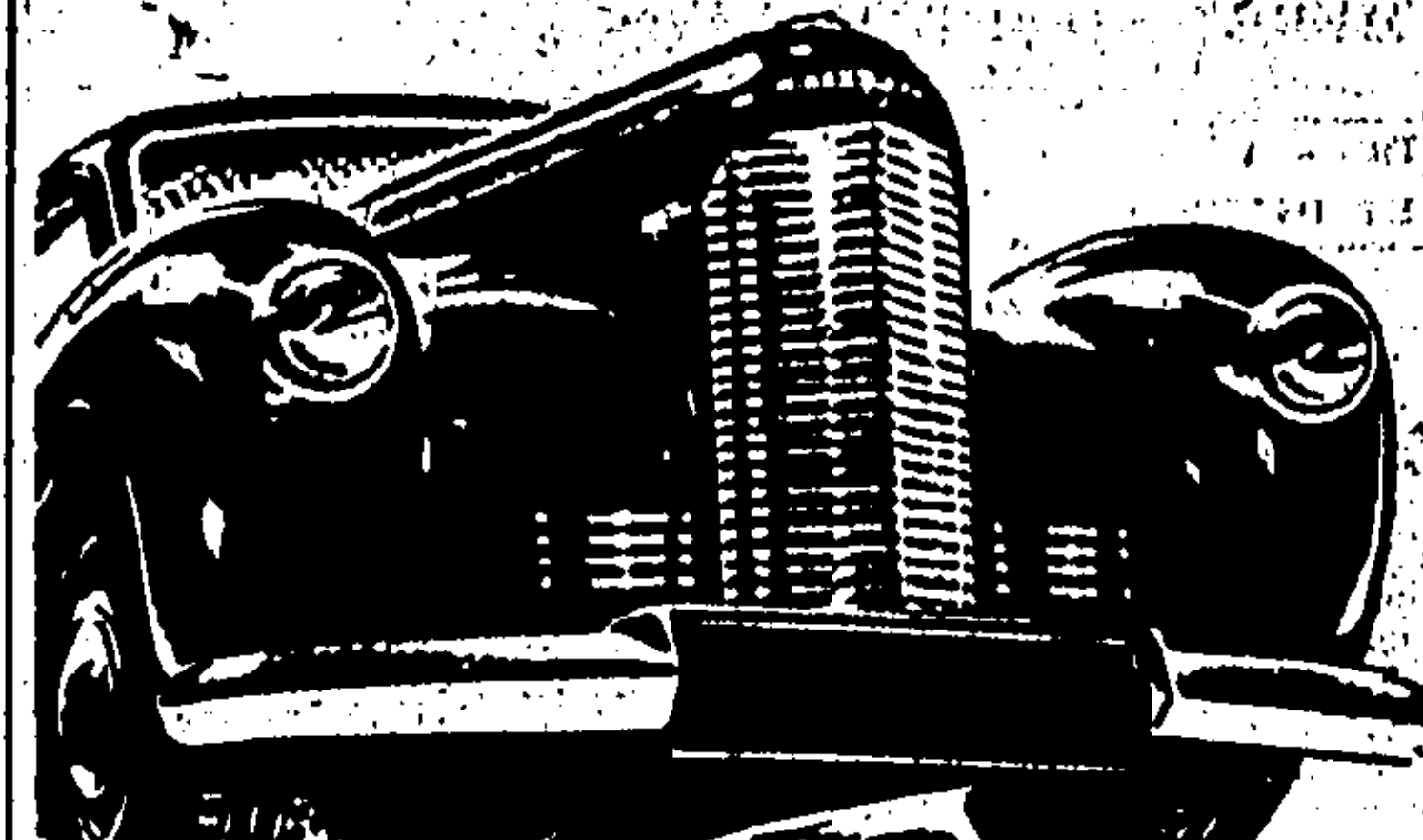
**Yachtsmen's
Tours**

A touring service for yachtsmen has been set up by the marine sales division of the Texaco Company.

The Texaco Waterways Service, which is dedicated to planning cruises for people, answered an average of 30,000 inquiries yearly before the war. The first post-war edition of yachting charts and maps, including guides to all principal harbours, is now being issued. Any question, from how to tie a knot to how to sail a boat across Montana, is answered by the free service. Maps and detailed information covering all waterways in the United States and Canada, and many other parts of the world, are supplied upon request.

Bulletins to be sent out with the charts describe bridges, canal tolls, depth, distances, how to take boats overland, and other necessary information. United Press.

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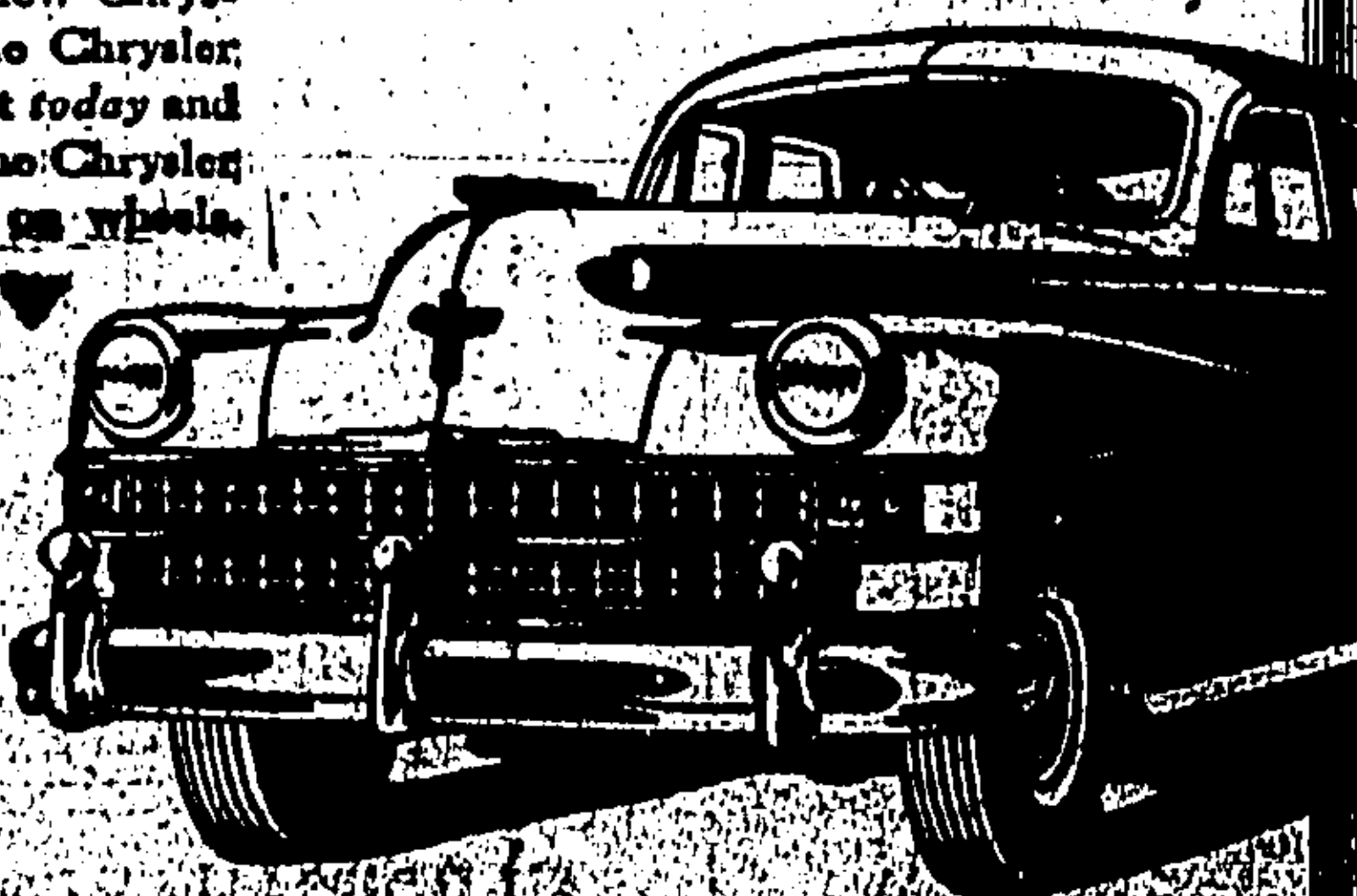
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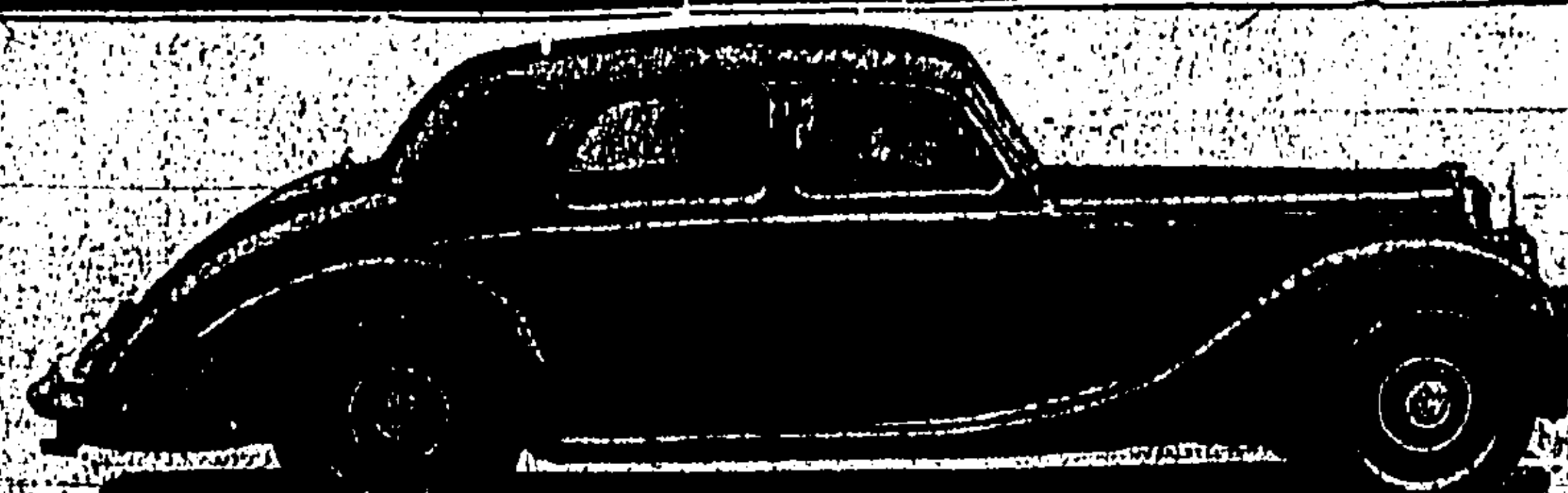
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BIDAULT GETS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE ON FOREIGN POLICY

Paris, Mar. 11.
The French National Assembly passed a vote of confidence on the Government's foreign policy by 419 votes to 183. Members of all parties, except the Communists, voted for the Government.

The vote was on a motion in the course of which the Assembly expressed "its fraternal greetings to the democrats in Czechoslovakia who are today forced into silence and deprived of their essential liberties."

The French Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, gave a resume of French foreign policy, and was applauded by all sections of the Assembly except the Communists.

The march of events in each of the Eastern European countries, M. Bidault said, had been very similar and was of a nature which "does not please us."

The moment had arrived to go "as far as possible" to constitute a union among the Western European countries. Parliament would shortly be informed of the results of the Brussels Conference, which, he hoped, would be considered substantial and satisfactory.

"We have got to get together on the basis of the principles of freedom," he declared. Loud and prolonged applause greeted this statement as the Assembly, with the exception of the Communists, rose to its feet.

Earlier in his speech, M. Bidault discussed the Greek question, and said: "The Greek Government has its im-

perfections. Perfect Governments do not exist in free countries. To the honour of Greece, I must say that it has a Government freely elected in internationally supervised elections."

Customs Union

Of the Franco-Italian customs union negotiations, M. Bidault said the talks were continuing. The Government would continue to negotiate but approval must come from Parliament.

"Our choice has been made between an egotism which, in our time, is outmoded, and the common use of the resources of European countries. We have turned our faces to the future."

Replying to accusations of forming a Western bloc, M. Bidault read a list of 15 treaties of mutual assistance signed between Eastern European countries between 1943 and 1948.

"Western Europe, for the service of liberty, has the right to do what has been done elsewhere," he declared.—Reuter.

French Relations With Franco Spain

Paris, Mar. 11.
The French Foreign Minister, M. Georges Bidault, in the French Assembly today afternoon, spoke in support of France's decision to resume diplomatic and commercial relations with Spain.

"Everybody has maintained relations with Spain, except France," he said. "Yet French investments represented 50 per cent of all foreign investment."

Turning to the Communist deputies, he said: "A refusal on our part to re-establish normal relations with Spain could only be defended by those who are particularly anxious to promote anti-French interests in the Peninsula."

He compared the French attitude to Spain with the Soviet attitude to Argentina, with whom M. Bidault recalled Soviet Russia had resumed diplomatic relations after denouncing the internal regime there.

M. Bidault said: "What is permitted one power must equally be permitted others." He said the French Government hoped that democracy would return to Spain the day, just as the Government hoped democracy would return "elsewhere" one day.

The French Foreign Minister added there were also French cultural interests to be defended in Spain. Replying to a Communist interruption about Frenchmen in Spanish jails, M. Bidault replied that representations had been made by the French Government, and, as a result, lives had been

"Soak The Rich"

Nanking, Mar. 12.
The Special Tax supervisory Committee decided at a meeting yesterday that the collection of the "soak the rich" tax from Overseas Chinese would be "optional."

This tax, aimed at a minimum sum of CNY100,000 million, is to be levied on the well-to-do only and the Shanghai authorities are, at present, engaged in compiling a list of the 2,000 wealthiest people there for the purpose of the tax.—Reuter-AAP.

Big Fire At Eire Airport

Shannon, Mar. 11.
The 74-foot high control tower at the Eire Government's £3,000,000 airport at Shannon was destroyed by fire today and crashed down through the roof of surrounding offices.

Most of the operational departments were also destroyed but a skeleton service will be operated from a ground control and a mobile van situated on one of the runways.—Reuter

Shanghai Industry Menaced

Shanghai, Mar. 12.
Shanghai's industries are threatened with closure as the result of continued sky-rocketing in the cost of living indices, a spokesman of the Shanghai Industries Association told reporters yesterday afternoon.

As rigid "freezing" of the index to peg wages would lead to labour unrest, local industrial leaders are hoping that the Government will devise some means of easing the grave situation facing them.

Meanwhile, the Social Affairs Commissioner Mr. Wu Kai-hsin, declared it is impossible to freeze wages by divorcing them from the index.

According to the Association spokesman, the rising index brings increased wages, which, in turn, cause the cost of manufactured goods to go up.

At a time when public purchasing power is declining rapidly this means curtailed buying on the part of the public. In the long run, factories will collapse and labourers will be thrown into unemployment, the spokesman added.—Reuter.

Tribute To Jan Masaryk

Paris, Mar. 11.
All French deputies stood in silence today when M. Georges Bidault, the French Foreign Minister, paid tribute to the memory of Dr. Jan Masaryk in the French National Assembly.

M. Bidault described Dr. Masaryk as "a great patriot and a citizen of the world" who "on the day when the trial became too heavy and hope vanished for a time, desired death," and "died when freedom died."

M. Edouard Herriot, the President of the Assembly, said: "We salute the great patriot, Jan Masaryk, who had always worked for the independence of his country and was a friend of peace and a friend of France."—Reuter.

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CHINA MAIL

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RACING AT THE VALLEY Ten Events Down For Today

Another programme of 10 events will be contested this afternoon, when the Hong Kong Jockey Club holds its Third Extra Race Meeting at the Valley.

The First Saddle Bell will be rung at 1.30 p.m. and the first race will start at 2.00 p.m. sharp.

Fine weather should favour the meeting, and with the grass track in such splendid condition, we may look forward to some keen racing.

The untimely passing of Mr. Tang Man Wah has been a day in the circle of local jockeys which will be hard to fill. The late Mr. Tang Man Wah, by his genial disposition and unassuming manner, had endeared himself to all who knew him, and his untimely demise has evoked genuine expressions of sympathy. Great tributes have already been paid to his sterling qualities, and it is only remains to be said that sympathy found true expression among the large gathering of officials and jockeys who attended his funeral.

On behalf of my readers I extend to his wife and relatives the fullest sympathy in their sad bereavement.

First Race

Smugglers' Stakes.—(First Section). From the 1 1/2 mile post, the program opens with a sprint race confined to Australian Ponies, Class 7. Weight 14 lb. 1 lb. penalty for every 100 lb. over 14 lb. Limit to penalty 12 lb. In the Critter's Bridge Stakes (Fourth Section) over the mile at the last meeting, Gilda with Mr. Wong Yan up, led until the last quarter when it was passed by Teowomba Boy and Fraylight and nearing the winning post it was piped by Mubuyu the third position. As it will be taken out by Mr. Needa to-day, this combination, if given a good start, will be hard to beat and a win here is indicated. There are other ponies, however, to be reckoned with, especially Ann Hing (Mr. Wong Yan) and Shanglin (Mr. Gregory), both of which are quite capable of creating an upset, while there is also Honeybelle to be considered. Honeybelle will be ridden by Mr. Miu, and for those who prefer to bet on an outsider, I suggest this one.

Second Race

One Mile.—(First Section). This race, confined to Australian Ponies, Class 3, provides an interesting problem for punters. There are quite a number of ponies capable of winning this race, including Mubuyu, Chesterfield (Mr. R. K. C. Chul) and Speedway (Mr. Tao), I name three ponies, because they are the best of the entries. Ann Hing (Mr. Wong Yan) is a contender at the First Extra over this distance appeals to me most and I think it will win. As a result of its previous disappointing run, when it was badly beaten in a sprint event, I expect Speedway will not be heavily backed. Nevertheless, I still believe that Speedway is capable of winning, and if it should fall again then look out for Desert Knight. Chesterfield is not bad and I think it should give good account of itself against the above-mentioned ponies.

Third Race

Windy Handicap.—(First Section). Six Furlongs. In this race for Australian Ponies, Class 5, it will be a difficult problem to spot the winner. In view of its previous win (First Section) over the mile at the last meeting, National Gift (Mr. Needa) will not doubt command the most support, but with other capable sprinters among the entries, such as The Chief (Mr. K. Kwok), the winner of the Second Section of the above race and Good Ship (Mr. R. K. C. Chul) will probably find the pace a little too fast. National Gift can also move fairly fast, and I think it will give either the above two ponies a good fight. The finish should be fought out between these three ponies, with Strathnamara (Mr. Boycott) a possible outsider. Constant Star (Mr. Shieh) can be depended upon to take this distance, and for this reason alone I think they should be watched.

Fourth Race

Pottagers' Stakes.—(First Section). Six Furlongs. Australian Ponies, Class 6. Weight 14 lb. 1 lb. penalty for every 100 lb. over 14 lb. Limit to penalty 12 lb. In this race, although it would appear that the winner could be narrowed down to only a few, the ultimate winner is easy after all. Brivisto (Mr. Ostroff) has to carry 12 lb. which should not handicap it, and it should be considered for this reason. National Gift (Mr. Needa) is a contender, but it is only a contender.

Fun (Mr. R. K. C. Chul) and the other entries that have shown improvement in their morning gallops. Judging on past performance, however, I look to Brivisto to pass the winning post first, leaving Tunny and National Gift to fight out the second position.

Fifth Race

Magazine Handicap. From the 1 1/2 mile post. By virtue of its record breaking run in the Newmarket Handicap over the seven furlongs at the last meeting, I don't think one needs look further for the winner than Daisy Bell (Mr. Needa) to win again. Black Market (Mr. Boycott) should also second position, with Soukumpots (Mr. K. Kwok) and Fifth Alarm (Mr. Black) fighting out the third position.

Sixth Race

Crown Handicap. One And A Half Miles. This race will witness the return encounter between Crown Witness (Mr. Boycott) and Avalon (Mr. Boycott). On the last occasion they met Crown Witness won, but with an advantage in weight. To-day it will be called upon to carry 9 lbs. more i.e. 14 lb. whereas Peggy's weight remains the same with Avalon carrying 6 lbs. less. On account of the easy manner in which it won the Doncaster Handicap over the 1 1/2 miles at the last meeting, Crown Witness must command the most support. The extra weight may affect its running, coupled with the longer distance, and although I am inclined to nominate it to win, I look to Peggy to give it a better fight than it did the last time. Avalon should find Mr. Boycott quite capable of handling it, and it should play a close race. On the other hand, I suggest that V.J. Day (Mr. Y. K. Tu), recently promoted from Class 1, and Rose Emma (Mr. Ostroff) in mind. The pony is fit and it may spring a surprise.

Seventh Race

Pottagers' Stakes.—(Second Section). Six Furlongs. Confined to Class 5 Australian Ponies, Second Section, Sino Marshall (Mr. S. C. Liang) is about the best and has accordingly been allotted top weight. This pony under Mr. Needa came second in the Critter's Bridge Stakes (Fourth Section) over the mile at the last meeting, and as the distance is only six furlongs, I reckon that if it is allowed to make the running from the start, it will prove just a little too fast for the others. The pony to watch, however, is Desert Knight, which will again be taken out by Mr. C. F. Ng. It has been showing improved form lately, and it will give Sino Marshall a keen fight to the end. There is also Estrellita (Mr. Y. K. Tu) to be considered. A ticket each way on this combination may turn out to be a good investment. Flying Wheel (Mr. Tao) and Harved (Mr. Shieh) if they can only get off to a good start will prove dangerous.

Eighth Race

Smugglers' Stakes.—(Second Section). From the 1 1/2 mile post, Confined to Second Section of Australian Ponies, Class 7. Weight 14 lb. 1 lb. penalty for every 100 lb. over 14 lb. Limit to penalty 12 lb. In this race, although it would appear that the winner could be narrowed down to only a few, the ultimate winner is easy after all. Brivisto (Mr. Ostroff) has to carry 12 lb. which should not handicap it, and it should be considered for this reason. National Gift (Mr. Needa) is a contender, but it is only a contender.

Ninth Race

Pottagers' Stakes.—(Second Section). Six Furlongs. Australian Ponies, Class 6. Weight 14 lb. 1 lb. penalty for every 100 lb. over 14 lb. Limit to penalty 12 lb. In this race, although it would appear that the winner could be narrowed down to only a few, the ultimate winner is easy after all. Brivisto (Mr. Ostroff) has to carry 12 lb. which should not handicap it, and it should be considered for this reason. National Gift (Mr. Needa) is a contender, but it is only a contender.

Selections By "Rapier"

Race No. 1.
GILDA
SHANGLIN
Outsider: Honeybelle.
Race No. 2.
SPEEDWAY
AMATON
DESERT KNIGHT
Outsider: Chesterfield.
Race No. 3.
NATIONAL GIFT
THE CHIEF
GOOD SHIP
Outsider: Strathnamara.
Race No. 4.
BRIVISTO
NATIONAL GLORY
SOME FUN
Outsider: Pearl Bridge.
Race No. 5.
DAISY BELL
BLACK MARKET
SOOKUMPOTS
Outsider: Fifth Alarm.
Race No. 6.
CROWN WITNESS
PEGGY
AVALON
Outsider: Rose Emma.
Race No. 7.
SINO MARSHALL
COUNTRESS DELIGHT
ESTRELLITA
Outsider: Harved.
Race No. 8.
KOOKABURRA
KWONG MING
HYALINE
Outsider: Seafire.
Race No. 9.
PLEASANT VALLEY
ANYWAY
TRIPOLO
Outsider: Sunshine.
Race No. 10.
BIG SHOT
TRADE WIND
MIAMI BEAUTY
Outsider: Souvenir.

TODAY'S SOCCER

The following are today's soccer fixtures:

FIRST DIVISION
R.A.P. v Kit Chee
(Navy, 3 p.m.)
Referee: J.G. Padley.
Lineup: C. Redman/A. Brogan.
Navy v Police
(Navy, 4.30 p.m.)
Referee: A. Brogan.
Lineup: W. Crawford/A. Guest.
St. Joseph's v Innisk
(Sookumpots, 3 p.m.)
Referee: J. Ward.
Lineup: F.A. Barretto/A.M. Lee.
Huffs v Sing Tao
(Sookumpots, 4.30 p.m.)
Referee: A.F. Willie.
Lineup: A. Ribeiro/A.M. Lee.
Chinese A.A. v K.M. Bus
(Police, 4.30 p.m.)
Referee: J.F. Silva.
Lineup: A. Farmer/P.M. Xavier.
Eastern v South China
(C. Hill, 4.30 p.m.)
Referee: C. Tunstall.
Lineup: Y.F. Mak/L. Frank.
SECOND DIVISION "A"
St. Joseph's v South China
(H. Valley "I", 3 p.m.)
Referee: A. Leck.
K.M. Bus v H.Q. Land Forces
(Police, 3 p.m.)
Referee: A. Farmer.
South China v R.A.S.C.
(C. Hill, 3 p.m.)
Referee: F.H. Bullock.
Sing Tao v 25th R.A.
(H. Valley "II", 3 p.m.)
Referee: W. Gaffney.
Chinese A.A. v Club
(H. Valley "II", 4.30 p.m.)
Referee: J. Day.

Munitions Explosion

Paris, Mar. 11.
Twelve workers were killed and another was seriously injured when four explosions rocked the munitions depot at St. Maurice de St. Maurice le Remens, Central France.
Fifty tons of high explosive shells, and bombs, former German war material, exploded.—Reuter.

Income Tax Reduction

Washington, Mar. 11.
The Senate Finance Committee today approved a \$4700,000,000 income tax reduction bill by a vote of 10-1. The action cut the \$6,500,000,000 tax bill passed by the House of Representatives. It also scaled down the percentage of cuts as approved in the House bill which called for cuts ranging from 30 percent for low income earners to 10 percent for earners in the upper brackets. The Senate bill grants a 12.6 percent cut in personal income taxes of \$400 or under; 7.4 percent on taxes from \$400 to \$100,000 and five percent on taxes above. It increases exemptions from \$500 to \$600 per person. It extends community property benefits of husband and wife to all states.—United Press.

King's Theatre Film Tragedy

(Continued from Page 1)

Interviewed at the Queen Mary Hospital, Chuen Sun with his head in bandages gave this version of the tragedy:

"I was busily engaged in inspecting films in my half of the room when, about 10.40 a.m., I heard Lai Hing-cheung asking someone who went up to him where he came from. The other man replied he was from the Grand Theatre. I did not raise my head from my work.

"Suddenly like a flash of lightning the whole room was in flame. What caused it I don't know and I had no time to think. My first thought was to escape and like an arrow I shot out of the doorway which, fortunately for me, was on my half of the room.

"In my rush through the doorway I was burnt on the head and had my hair and eyebrows singed.

"Once out of the burning furnace I rushed to the office and shouted 'fire'. People then rushed out of all the offices on the floor. I smashed the fire box and tried to connect a fire hose, but before I could do so the Fire Brigade had arrived."

Chuen Sun explained that the room was divided by an iron grille. Columbia occupied the half further away from the doorway.

He had been working that morning since 9.30 a.m. and as he had a heavy backlog of work he hardly spoke to Lai, the Columbia film inspector the whole morning.

He has been film inspector for Eagle-Lion since 1946, and before that had served in the same capacity for other film companies for eight to nine years.

Fantastic Theory
Asked for a possible cause of the fire Chuen could give no explanation, and in answer to a query as to whether anyone could have been smoking, discarded the theory at once as fantastic.

A.P.C. employees in the Accounts Department on the third floor of Shell House, which felt the full force of the blast, considered themselves lucky to have escaped with nothing more than a severe fright.

The flame which shot across the street from the King's Theatre scorched all windows frames on the third floor of Shell Building, dissolved plaster on the outside wall and shattered the floor of the office with glass.

3-inch hose and directing a stream of water across the street onto the scene of the fire. Three or four minutes later the Fire Brigade arrived and took over. They brought their hoses up to our offices and coupled them on to our hydrant."

The flame from the explosion was so hot that the heat was felt on the other side of the A.P.C. Accounts Department. The room was thrown into extreme disorder, with papers and glass scattered all over the floor.

Mr. A.C. Blaschek, Divisional Engineer (Hong Kong) of A.P.C., whose office almost directly faced the window of the room from which Chan Ha jumped to his death, told the "China Mail":

"A lot of people were in the office at the time when a sound like the crashing of milk bottles was heard. Looking across the window we saw a glow, followed immediately by sheets of flame shooting out of the window. Simultaneously a man fell out. Whether he jumped out or was blown out I don't know.

"The flame shot across to our office and some of our windows were smashed, due to the intense heat. We had to evacuate our staff, and then had fire hoses played on the flame. Within the space of ten minutes, after the arrival of the Fire Brigade, the fire seemed to be under control."

All Destroyed
Interviewed by the "China Mail" a representative of Columbia Film Distributors said Lai Hing-cheung, their unfortunate film inspector, was a steady worker and had been with them for some 10 years.

He went to his work yesterday morning as usual. Shortly after 10.30 a.m. a messenger from the Grand Theatre, named Chan Ha, brought back a film trailer, and it was understood that he took it to the store room.

All their films in Hong Kong, with the exception of those hired out to the theatres, were stored in this room, and they had all been destroyed.

They could not say whether their films were insured or not. Nor could they say what the value of the films was.

Their employees were covered against life and accident and Lai's relatives would receive compensation in due course.

WEEK-END'S SOFTBALL Aces Clash With The Wahoos

(By "Grandstand")

As a result of last week's defeat by the Wildcats, Buster Hollands' Madcap Aces are now a game behind the Wahoos, and tomorrow will see them take the field against the Green Owls in a struggle for a chance to the pennant play-off, with their backs against the wall. A victory will put them even with the Wahoos.

The Wahoos have one of the coolest liners in the loop in Terry Noronha, who, with Patry Ribeiro, sure-fire catcher, forms a combination hard to beat. Around the infield will be Hilda Soares at first base, originally one of the Big Three in the batting race now just about making the 300 class, Hilda is due to snap out of her slump and collect a few base hits.

For the Aces, Margie Xavier did a good job for her side last week by limiting the slugging Wildcats to only two scattered singles, but her team-mates let her down by collecting only three safeties for the whole game—but then they had to contend with Lefty Dolly Brown.

The issue rests on whether the Xavier-Baptista battery can shake off the Wahoo jinx. Inner quartet for the Aces will be Inez Soares, Alec Mendonza, Therese Remedios, and Grille Gaan.

Don Robbins will call the tosses, with Wilfred Lawrence and Gus Rozario watching the bases.

The only game in the senior league worth watching will be the V.R.C. Madcap clash slated for 11.15 a.m. In the previous scuffle, the Aquacade's humiliated the Marquenses after the latter had utilized three hurlers—Kelly Silva-Netto and the Hollands brothers. Much depends on whether Dale Cramer will be available for Cramer's absence last week, completely demoralized the Madcaps when they tangled with the Filipinos, and they were lucky to snatch the verdict in the nick of time.

The Aces are down to meet the Pirates in a return game at the Marine Ground this afternoon at 3 p.m.

Latent standings in the gat-race are as follows:

Games At Bat	Runs	Hits	Errors
E. Bahlis	2	14	416
M. Soares	7	27	11
G. Gaan	9	22	14
J. Lee	8	22	12
Alec Mendonza	22	11	270
Patry Ribeiro	9	26	12
T. Baptista	9	27	12
I. Castilho	9	24	11
T. Watson	9	21	10
C. Soares	9	22	11
Hilda Soares	9	25	11

Week-end fixtures and umpire roster:

MEN'S "A" DIVISION—SUNDAY
At C.R.A. Grounds: 9.30 a.m.—Phillips v H.K. Baseballers (Tony Lopez, L. Gutierrez, G. Rosa, Porsini).

11.15 a.m.—V.R.C. v Madcaps (Don Robbins, Dill Wee, Luke Huen).

At Riverside Football Grounds: 9.30 a.m.—Canadians v Police (W. Lawrence, Jack Brown, Hilda Soares).

11.15 a.m.—St. Joseph's v S. China (Doc C. Melhorn, Gus Rozario, A. Campos).

At Riverside Football Grounds: 11.15 a.m.—Rovers v Rovers (I. Erikson, F. Mak, R. Bahlis).

LADIES' LEAGUE—SUNDAY
At C.R.A. Grounds: 2.00 p.m.—Aces v Wahoos (Don Robbins, W. Lawrence, Gus Rozario).

MEN'S "B" DIVISION—SATURDAY
At C.R.A. Grounds: 4.00 p.m.—Jaguars v Braves (Hal Winslow, F. Remedios, Pecky Remedios).

At Riverside Football Grounds: 2.30 p.m.—Wildcats v U. Nations (Sibby Samy, Reggie Castro, Ronby Wright).

4.00 p.m.—Comets v Rovers (Miklin Samy, Anthony, R. Viers).

At Riverside Football Grounds—Sunday: 1.30 p.m.—Josephians v Dan-deville (Ollie Vas, Joey Franco, G. Lopez).

Bao Dai Returning
Ex-Emperor Bao Dai of Annam is expected to return to Hong Kong tomorrow from France where he was engaged in talks with the French authorities regarding the independence and unification of Indo-China.

Mr. Liu Duc Trung, accredited spokesman for Bao Dai and leader of the Viet Nam Popular Movement, will not be at the Kai Tak airport to meet Bao Dai. Mr. Liu is scheduled to leave Hong Kong today for an unknown destination.

Mr. Liu yesterday refused to divulge any information on his departure which is believed to be connected with the forthcoming final formal negotiations between Bao Dai and M. Emile Bollaert, French High Commissioner in Indo-China.

CAPTAIN FINED
Garry Andrew Edjard, master of the S.S. Eris, appeared at Central Magistrate yesterday charged with failing to hoist signal flag until authorized by the immigration officer, to take them down at the Customs Annex.

Blarney Stone Shield

The quarter Finals of the Blarney Stone shield will commence today at 2.15 p.m. when the strong Underdogs will meet the Gunners who although lacking in individual "stars" will give the Underdogs a very spirited game.

Talkies whose weight will undoubtedly prove a disadvantage in the second half will encounter severe opposition in their opponents the Buffs, whose spearhead of attack is Rex de Buscombe, a neat and elusive player. A point which the Buffs must overcome is their unnecessary kicking for touch.

The result of "skins" and RN Hospital is difficult to forecast, as the "Interns" are as yet an "unknown quantity", but judging by the excellent team work displayed last Saturday the Irishmen, led by Symes, Murphy, Docharty and Keenan have an excellent chance of winning the shield. Tamar A will meet R.A.F. at 3.15 p.m. and with such hard working players as Deshaugh, Matheson and Wynyard, should defeat the R.A.F. providing Hutchison of the R.A.F. does not secure the Ball in the loose, for once in possession, Hutchison is a dangerous and clever player.

It was very noticeable last Saturday that the R.A.F. by playing Hutchison in the scrum-half position lost the mainspring of their attack and it would be wise if they played him in the centre in their encounter against the powerful Tamar A.

As this is the climax of the Rugby Season and such friendly rivalry exists between the playing teams—Rugger enthusiasts assured of some hard and exciting Rugger.

MEN'S "A" DIVISION—SUNDAY
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YANKEES BEAT CARDS
New York Yankees squeezed the most from two hits, defeating St. Louis Cardinals 2-0 in an exhibition baseball game featuring mid-season pitching by both teams.

Other exhibition results were: Detroit Tigers 14, Philadelphia Phillies 5; Boston Braves 14, Cincinnati Reds 3; Brooklyn Dodgers 5, Montreal 2; Chicago Cubs 4, St. Louis Browns 2; Pittsburgh Pirates 3, Chicago White Sox 3.—United Press.

K.C.C. TENNIS
Another of the popular American tennis tournaments, the K.C.C. tennis tournament, will be held at the K.C.C. Grounds tomorrow.

Chess Tourney

Upsets marked both the second and third round of the qualifying tournament for the Colony Open Chess Championship, played on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at the Peninsula Hotel, and the struggle for qualification came close to a deadlock stage in Group 1A.

Nearest to qualifying for the final of the 16 players competing for the six coveted places is L. Schure who scored a convincing win over K.M.A. Barnett in the second round and followed it up by a less convincing one over R.W. Carter in the third.

Schure has now three clear points to his credit and is the only unbeaten player after three rounds. His victory over Barnett should rank as the biggest upset of the tournament. The former Colony Champion was on the defensive throughout the game.

Confronted with a Centre Counter, Barnett elected to play Philidor's Defence. Looking on tempo on the fourth move he was hard pressed in opening development and lost a pawn on the 20th move after having let by a chance to equalise the position on the 19th. Schure kept pressing steadily until his opponent's resignation on the 34th move.

Letting go three pawns in a risky counter-attack against To Yu-lai, Arthur Gomes scored the second big upset of the round when he capitalised on a series of forced moves that put his opponent on the defensive. The situation could yet have been saved but the old Tarrasch gambit claiming a threefold material advantage in a misconstrued effort to save a pawn the Chinese player, holder of the Colony Second Category Championship, lost a knight and a more important tempo that opened up the second stage of a devastating attack, resigning on the 34th move.

The game was a French Defence, the most often resorted to king's side defence in the qualifying rounds thus far. The French Defence had been to all practical purposes abandoned in favour of the Sicilian in recent tournaments locally but has come back into its own now with three successive victories for the black pieces.

A surprising reversal of form in Group "A" saw the section's only two unbeaten players both go down. Birkhoff, playing a QGD against Ray Danenberg pulled a well-earned win out of a drawn position in a two-session game.

As this is the climax of the Rugby Season and such friendly rivalry exists between the playing teams—Rugger enthusiasts assured of some hard and exciting Rugger.

Eugene Taus went down to Johnny Carvalho in a game in the course of which he twice lost the equality after being down material only to take out in the ensuing race in the endgame.

P.K. Sequiera leads in Group "B" with two clear wins and is a pawn up in his adjourned third-round game against V.N. Douneff. The game between the two players, who have never yet met in competition, has been looked forward to with much interest. Sequiera was runner-up in the Intermediate Championship in 1946 and Douneff the winner of the same championship in 1947. Both are highly regarded as coming Colony Champions.

Results were: Group A: P. de Carvalho (b) beat Eugene Taus; A. Birkhoff (b) beat R.C. Danenberg; (b) beat J. Ramler; P.K. Sequiera (w) beat A. Archangelis—second round; Archangelis (w) beat Ramler—third round.

Group G: V.V. Kolachoff (w) beat R.V. Gier; Arthur Gomes (b) beat To Yu-lai; L. Schure (w) beat K.M.A. Barnett—second round; L. Schure (b) beat R.W. Carter—third round.

SCORES TO DATE
Group A: A. Birkhoff and R.C. Danenberg 2-1; P. de Carvalho and E. Taus 0-2; A. Birkhoff 0-2; P.K. Sequiera 3-0; P.K. Prokopen 1-4; V. Archangelis 1-1; V.N. Douneff 0-4; J. Ramler 0-3.

Group C: L. Schure 3-0; V.V. Kolachoff 1-4; V.V. K.M.A. Barnett and A.B. Gomes 1-1; To Yu-lai 0-4; R.W. Carter 0-2.

DEMPSEY BACKS PROPOSAL
Former world heavyweight boxing champion Jack Dempsey said he favours legislation providing that a boxer who has been knocked out cannot fight again for 60 days.

Dempsey, in a letter, said he was "in hearty accord with the bill" filed in the Massachusetts legislature for such a law.